





# ACCOMPANYING THE PHOENIX

BOOK 01

*Jiu Lu Fei Xiang*

EPUB CREATION BY LISA HAYES



# *Accompanying the Phoenix*

(本王在此)

*by*

## *Jiu Lu Fei Xiang*

(九鶯非香)

# Synopsis

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As the Azure Sky King who was born with a pearl residing in her mouth, Shen Li's life was always bright and dazzling. However, with her upcoming thousandth birthday, the demonic claws of a political marriage swiftly stretched towards her, catching her unaware.

The Heavenly Emperor residing in the Heavens had given a heavenly edict – the Azure Sky King shall be engaged and married to the thirty-third grandson of the Heavenly Emperor, Fu Rong.

But Fu Rong was infamous throughout the realms for his Casanova personality. As the King who called the shots in the demonic realm, she had the ability to quell uprisings and end wars with a swing of her silver spear – there was absolutely no way she would marry that flirtatious idiot! She must escape from this marriage!

Shen Li never once thought that during her escape journey, she would meet a man who doesn't belong to the three realms and the five elements. That man was truly an... oddball.

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# Prologue

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The oppressive sound of thunder echoed as the black clouds from above made the atmosphere even more heavy.

“The Demon Emperor has issued a command, the Azure Sky King must quickly return to our Palace!”

The long hair bounded by golden hair bands danced with the wind as the sleeve of a robe fluttered between them. The maiden who had been called the Azure Sky King slowly replied: “This king won’t return.” Embroidered peonies were visibly displayed on her black corset robe as her voice possessed a heroic spirit and boldness that was rare in most maidens, “It doesn’t matter whose order it comes from.”

“If so, then we wish Your Highness would not blame us for this offense.” The leading gray clothed man waved his hand, and the figures of two people jumped out from behind him, encircling her within their triangular formation.

“To dare block this king’s path, you have guts.” Chen Li’s eyes flashed with coldness, and a silver colored longspear revolved in the palm of her hands. The blade of the spear drew a silver arc as killing intent surged out of her entire body, making the corners of her clothes flutter: “Come whenever!”

The man in the lead glanced towards another man at the same time, and appeared to be afraid of the consequences. The man behind Chen Li’s right side swiftly unsheathed his sword, bringing

along a sharp offensive force. “Don’t be too impulsive, Mo Fang!” The man at the lead yelled, but could not stop the action. Chen Li raised her brows and unhesitantly met the attack with her silver spear. Only the sounds of clanking could be heard as their weapons interlocked. The clear noises brought about by the weapons surged with magic power that moved out in every direction.

The remaining two people gritted their teeth and could only lift their blades to catch up, making a besieging formation around Chen Li.

Among the three, any one of them would considered a famous force to be reckoned with. However, in the face of Chen Li, they had to strain themselves. But in the end, two hands were no match for four, and Chen Li was incapable of being ruthless enough to deal a killing blow to either of them. Even though her magic power surpassed all three of them, in the midst of their encirclement, it was hard to avoid being at a disadvantage. Not long after, she revealed an opening. Mo Fang ruthlessly grasp his sword and thrust forward, and unexpectedly aimed in the direction of her heart!

One of them shouted out loud: “Mo Fang! Do not harm the king’s life!”

Mo Fang ignored him as the sharp end of his blade split open the robe and entered flesh. In between the strong pressure of the three’s formation, Chen Li was infuriated: “You, boy, show promise! As expected of the soldiers that I have brought up! To be so ruthless!” Mo Fang did not speak, and only slightly moved in an angle that the two behind him could not see. Then, he plunged his

neck towards Chen Li's blade. As blood drifted in the air, Chen Li opened her eyes wide and asked in disbelief with a trail of blood between her lips: "What're you trying to do? Frighten this king to death?!"

"Your Highness." Mo Fang said in an overcast voice, "Mo Fang can only help you till here. Take care." After finished speaking, he used all his strength to push Chen Li and pulled out the blade that had missed his heart. Fresh blood flowed as her body rapidly dropped down from the high above the clouds. As for the heavily injured Mo Fang, he was caught by the other two men. It was not known what he said to them, but all three of their silhouettes flashed, and disappeared without a trace.

In the midst of the flashing lightning and rolling thunder, Chen Li suddenly understood everything. It looks like Mo Fang had been trying to help her. Perhaps he had known that at this moment, even if she were to die, she would never be willing to return to the Demon World's Underground Palace.

What a good kid! As expected of the soldier she brought up, he was loyal enough!

# Chapter 1:

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The sky was black.

The thunder roared and winds flew chaotically at a small town. The townspeople huddled in their homes, not one stepping foot into the mighty storm. Despite this, in the far west, the door was open as one man entered a tall courtyard, his hair and robes fluttering madly within the whistling wind as bamboo leaves swirled in the air.

“The weather...has turned bad. His lips curved as he tilted his head to the sky, black clouds allowing only a hint of silver light as it slowly disappeared among the landscape outside of the small town. “Things are beginning to change.”

The next day, Xing Yun dressed in azure scholar robes, walked through the noisy road, the street vendors constantly called out as they struggled to sell their products. Among those, one seemed to ring out exceptionally clear. “Selling young chickens!! Very fat!” Xing Yun’s feet moved to a stop as he turned and walked to the direction of the booth. Soon, chickens appeared before him in crowded nests, and within them, one stuck out like a sore thumb. The pure white, featherless chicken looked unhealthy, its head bowed low as if it going to die any second. Somehow though, it seemed as if it had a proud and lively spirit within it. Xing Yun stared intently at it, before breaking out into a wide smile, saying, “I want this one.”

The shopkeeper took one look before shouting, “Ah! This chicken is far too ugly! I’ll give you a small discount for this one.”

“No need.” Xing Yun dug out the money from his pocket to give to the vendor, “She’s worth it. If I pay too little, she’ll surely get angry.”

The shopkeeper stared blankly, “A broiler chicken will get angry?” He touched his head in confusion as he watched the young man depart. Shaking his head to count the coins, his eyes widened as he looked down at his palm where the coins laid.

“Ah! You didn’t give me enough money for the chicken!! Oy, kid!! Wait!” He yelled loudly at Xing Yun, “Ai yah!!! Mischievous bastard!”.

But alas, Xing Yun could already not be seen.

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Chen Li felt as if she had just opened her eyes for the first time; The world can truly be evil and turbulent. She stared at the man before her. A sturdy man, a stubble on his face-Ah! He hauled Chen Li up painfully, a wicked smile on his face as evil laughter exploded out of him.

“You must have guts as big as the sky, let go of this king!!!” Chen Li glared venomously at the stranger as her skin burned with pain. Chen Li struggled relentlessly as she tried her best to escape. But her strength was too weak, and despite her best efforts, she was still clutched tightly by her wing and then he...

Plucked all her feathers out!!

Hateful!! Chen Li swore to herself; When she gets out, she will surely poke out his dog eyes!!!

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Chen Li woke up panting. A nightmare? Shaking her head, Chen Li lifted her head from the soft grass to peer at her surroundings. It looked as if it was someone's courtyard. Stone steps led up to a small pond as budding grapevines twirled around. Near it, laid a bamboo rocking chair, and in it, was a sleeping man. That man didn't seem to be strong or dangerous, like the hunter, nor did he seem gruff and indecent like that chicken trader. Rather, he was a pale, slender man in azure robes. His eyes laid closed as pockets of sunlight fell on his body.

Chen Li is not a shy, naive maiden, and has admittedly seen men even more good looking than this. However, even in the world of immortals, men of such grace was truly rare. However, Chen Li forced herself to look away; Now was not the time to admire men. She knew that if she stayed in a single place for too long, she will surely be found. She had to go, quickly.

“Ah! He got up!”

Chen Li had still not even gotten up, yet the young man was already awake.

“Oh? I thought it was going to die,” The guy spoke. Chen Li

turned her head to look at him to see the man sitting on the rocking chair. Even though her body didn't move, he smiled at her before throwing the crumbs of his mantou near her. He then made some funny noises, almost chirping like a chicken, as if to coax her into eating.

.... What? Is he playing with her?

In that moment, the surrounding air seemed to have gone several degrees colder.

Although her original body was that of a phoenix, she was born in a mortal form. From young, she was loved and respected by everybody. At 500 years old, she fought a grand battle and won an achievement from the emperor himself. She was then crowned the “Azure Sky King”. Since then, her fame and prestige has only risen more, yet today, she was belittled and treated as a chicken by a mere mortal?!?

Chen Li fought to stand up, however, she did not expect the sword that she'd been stabbed with would be bothersome to the point where she couldn't even move! As such, she laid on the floor as resentment and frustration washed over her. She could only turn her head wearily to look at the man, who then smiled and gestured with his hands as he beckoned her: “Chicken, here! Come here, chicken!”

“Chicken? Who are you calling a chicken!”

Chen Li was furious, forcing herself again and again to get up.

When she finally succeeded, she hopped slowly towards the man, anger in her eye-THUMP!!! Only to fall after not even one hop, her beak landing coincidentally into the mantou.

Seeing this, the man smiled. “Slowly, slowly! There is still more.” He then entered the residence, appearing again with another mantou in his hands. Squatting down in front of her, he gave her a gentle smile and said, “Here.”

“Who wants your bread!”

But in the end, she knew that she needed to regain her strength as soon as possible. Even so, she almost wished that she could just dig a hole with her beak and stuffed her head inside. Why couldn’t that man just bury himself and die!

The man just stared at her bald head, a smile on his lips then said, “If you do not want to eat it then, taking a bath now is good too.” He plucked her up by her two wings and immediately walked over to the side of the pool.

“Ah-Wait, wait! Do what? A bath?!?? Who wants to take a bath! Hateful! Release this King! This king’s feathers are precious! To damage a single one is to punish their family for 19 generations!”

Punish Their Families for 19 Generations is this saying to end a family line, and punish both the offender’s ancestors and descendants.

F..fea..feathers....

Chen Li stared at her reflection-Not a single feather... really not a single one left.....she thought back gloomily.

That day when she was stabbed, she had fallen into the wilderness. A hunter had picked her up. She knew that her gorgeous golden feathers were forcefully plucked off, but she never imagined that he was so nastily greedy to the point that he did not leave a single feather on! What was she to do! Might as well throw her into a pot of boiling water! From tip to toe, there is not a single feather! Not a single one! What was she to do! She cried out in exasperation. Chen Li felt hot tears streaming down her face.

She suddenly remembered a few days ago, in the royal court, she was laughing at one of the balding officials! She was confused and could not understand why he would be so upset and had continued laughing at him. Yet now, it was like she was slapping her own face! This must have been karma for that day. Retribution!

“Go bathe.” Without waiting for Chen Li to protest, he casually tossed her straight into the pond.

Choking, she quickly coughed out water as her will to live surged within her. She flapped her featherless wings quickly, flopping madly against the water. The man was still laughing, but when he saw her gasping for breath, he let out a worried frown. “You cannot swim?”

[Can your chicken’s swim?! Do you really not have the slightest bit of common sense?]

Seriously injured, without a trace of spirit power and not an ounce of strength left. She really did not think that she could survive such an ordeal. She thought that today, she would die at the hands of a mortal. A long stick of bamboo quickly swept to her, roughly bringing her to shore. She let out a groan, and the man quickly squatted, his hands pushing down at her bare breast. “Quickly breathe!! If you do not, you may not survive.”

Her soaked body convulsed violently, her eyes rolling as she fainted. Her last thought was-

“This guy!!!”

How lecherous! This man must be doing this on purpose!

Xing Yun watched with a faint smile as Chen Li fainted, poking her forehead gently. “Ah, how impolite. My name is Xing Yun, not ‘this guy’.”

## Chapter 2:

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On the second day, Chen Li woke up to see Xing Yun feeding mantou to the fish. He seemed to treasure that pond of fish very much, not even caring that his sleeve was soaked. Under the soft glow of the dawn light, he looked as if he was someone that has transcended from the immortal world.

Was he truly just a mere mortal?

Suddenly, all of her memories came flooding back. This was the very man who had dunked her into the water, and almost killed her! She narrowed her eyes and stared at him intently until her eyes misted, tracking his every movement. Xing Yun turned around casually and said lightly, “My name is Xing Yun.” He then proceeded to dust his shoulders, readjusted his robe, and started shaking his feet that had long since gone numb from sitting. He muttered, “It’s time for my medicine.” Before walking back inside, his posture not even straight.

Chen Li shook her head; She was certain that something must have been wrong with her brains back then. There was no way that this guy could be anything but a mere mortal. No matter how she looked, she could only describe him with one word: Ordinary.

Not bothering to think more on the topic due to a more pressing crisis at hand, Chen Li tried to move her body, amazed to find that her body had by far exceeded her own expectations. Her self-recovery seems to be currently far better than yesterday’s, despite the torment she was put through.

Chen Li chose not to think deeply about that, instead choosing to take a deep breath and check her spirit power, only to find none. She sighed, it seems that spirit power is really much harder to recover as compared to physical strength. Although her lack of spirit power may be able to hide her from the Demon World's Underground Palace, that came with a heavy price. She knew that in her current situation, the Demon Emperor will inevitably find her. When he does, if her spirit power still hasn't returned, she would not be able to raise a single finger in defense.

"Come here." As he made some clucking noises.

Chen Li was thinking, when a voice called out suddenly behind her. She turned to find Xing Yun, dressed again in an azure robe, mantou in hand. "Eat a bit."

Chen Li was about to coldly ignore him, but then she remembered yesterday's "crime" of refusing to eat which resulted in a cold bath! Her body stiffened as she hesitated before taking a small bite at her end. Her pride took a large blow as she retracted her neck, not daring to walk in front of him superiorly as before.

Chen Li noticed a faint herbal scent coming from his robes. This time, Chen Li looked at his face in total concentration. His face was pale, lips were white, and his eyes had dark circles, looking very uncomfortable.

Great! Chen Li was very worried that this mortal would spread rumors about her, Chen Li, being unbearably ugly. However, if he was going to die soon, then there would be no need to fear a man who could take this secret to his grave! To others, she would still

be the grand, majestic, and beautiful Azure Sky King! Her heart felt relieved as she discarded her pride and took a big bite out of the mantou.

[Delicious!]

Chen Li's eyes lit up; Why, mantou can actually be so delicious?!

Before Xing Yun could react, Chen Li snatched the mantou, and devoured it in a few huge bites!!

As a Phoenix, Chen Li obviously had no need for food or water to survive. However, Chen Li always liked eating meat, and had never touched any bread before in her whole life!

She picked the mantou completely clean, not even leaving a single crumb. Finally, Chen Li lifted her head up to stare at Xing Yun. She was surprised to find him looking at her with gentle eyes and a happy smile, as he lifted his hands to pat her head. What she does not realize, however, is that for a pet, this is all completely normal. When the hand reached her head, her heart rate shot up, and she quickly stuffed her head inside her wing.

Whenever she was with others, she was always respected and her generals were always near her side. Even if she is just a few steps away from a man, he would begin to shiver uncontrollably, so who would dare to look at her straight in the eye? However, her heart beat immediately calmed down; After all, she had seen many handsome royals and princes throughout the ages. She quickly brought out her head, before impolitely rapping Xing Yun's knee

with her bare wings pecked him with her beak “Oh? You want another?” Xing Yun smiled, “Not today, I have only made that much.”

Xing Yun suddenly got up and entered the house. Chen Li was confused slightly before hastily following him inside. Really arrogant, to actually believe she would want another! Give him an inch, and he’ll take a foot!

She ran behind Xing Yun’s feet, but she was too weak now. Thus she could only helplessly watch as Xing Yun left, carrying a big bag. He pushed open the door to leave, only saying; “Watch the house. I’ll return after selling my body.”

Gah! How could he just leave her alone her and treated her as a watchdog?!? This isn’t right. But Chen Li could do nothing but watch his figure fade as the door swung close.

[Wait, what did he just say? Sell what?]

Chen Li shook her head, and turned to walk back to the courtyard. The sun was on such an angle that made the grapevines glisten beautifully as they bud, shaking ever so slightly. Chen Li felt almost addicted to the beautiful scene and warmth as she was covered with the warm glistening rays of sunshine. Just as she was about to fall asleep, she heard a murmur and the sound of movement.

Instincts trained by years of battle, Chen Li was instantly alerted. She opened her eyes and stared piercingly at the location of the

sound. A young girl-by the looks of it, a commoner, trying to scale the tall wall leading to the courtyard. She looked around in worry, as she clumsily pulled herself up before anxiously looking down at the ground, not understanding how to get down. She then fell, landing with an ompff.

Chen Li couldn't help but made a remark.

[Such a strong fall! Such a dumb thief, not even able to know how to steal before trying to steal!]

The girl rubbed her painful bum before going inside the house and retreated into the kitchen. Finding the brooms and rags, she silently began to clean up the packed house. She began to wipe the table, but when she began, tears started falling down, and finally she just laid down on the table and started crying loudly.

Chen Li struggled to hear what the girl said, barely catching anything but sobbing, the longest line probably just “never see a” and things like that. Chen Li was surprised to find that she was finally done crying. She quickly attempted to turn away.

She had been too focused on watching and trying to listen to what that girl was muttering than finding a place to hide. As such, she ended up in her current predicament, face to face with the crying girl. As they eyed each other warily, Chen Li couldn't help but remind herself that she really should only mind her own business in the future when the girl finally broke the silence.

“Ai, Brother Xing, really? You plucked the chicken and now it's

running free? You can easily get a delicious meal just by making stew with it.” She wiped her tears with her hands, and said, “You can be considered as the last meal I shall make for him for my farewell.”

[Meal your uncle! Who are you to dare and try to make a meal out of me?!?! ]

Chen Li was shocked to see her actually get out a stew pot. Chen Li twisted her body and dashed out of the house. The girl was calling behind while chasing: “Ai, Don’t run all around, you’ll get dirty! Cleaning you up will be troublesome!”

Chen Li really wished she could just spray paint herself with feces and just let her die like that!

Chen Li’s current physical strength still isn’t all that good, but the girl was just too stupid as well! She used a variety of techniques to catch her, but Chen Li always managed to somehow run away. Seeing this, the girl began to become infuriated. It really seems like this little girl wants to play hard ball eh?!? Chen Li wanted to use her wings, but they were plucked bare and were incredibly difficult. In addition to that, just how easy did it seem to do that whilst running away from a mad woman?!?!

The courtyard was built really well, to the point that when Chen Li searched for a gap to hide in, she couldn’t find so much as a single crack!

Chen Li has never felt such embarrassment, frustration or

despair in her entire life. She made a blood oath: If today, she gets made into chicken stew, she will degrade to a vengeful ghost and haunt heaven for 99 days and 99 nights to the point where they spit blood out of madness. If it wasn't for the arranged marriage, would she be in such a disgraceful situati-

Before Chen Li could finish her thoughts, an unbearable pain shot through her wings.

[What happened?!?]

Panicked, she twisted her head around to see that the commoner girl had clutched both of her wings, leaving her helpless!! Chen Li's legs thrashed about madly, but alas, she was not free from the girl's painful grip.

“Such an unpleasant chick, won’t you see how I deal with you!” The girl walked angrily to the kitchen, grabbing something.

Chen Li felt as if her bones were about to tear apart from pain! Bam! Chen Li was slammed onto the cutting board, the girl brandished the knife above her. Suddenly, Chen Li felt the tense atmosphere between life and death as she suddenly recalled a moment. She saw herself once again in the midst of the battlefield, majestically brandishing her silver long spear as she thrusted the spear towards her enemy. So...these are the feelings of a weakling?

“Oh? What’s happening and why are you here?”

A male voice sounded. In this moment between life and death, Chen Li struggled to turn her head and stared at Xing Yun. The sun coiled around him, looking as if he was an angel, a merciful savior. But in that moment, the knife chopped down, blocking her view.

The girl raised her hands in a defensive posture, and blushed. “X-Xing Yun, uh I just wanted to see you and wanted to make some stew with the plucked chicken. If the chicken isn’t dead, it won’t taste good in the stew.”

Chen Li could not even move a claw as she lay completely defenseless. In today’s fight, she had drained all of her strength. She couldn’t help but think-Today, she will die.

“This chicken cannot be eaten.” Chen Li was dragged into a pair of warm arms as the scent of medicinal herbs comforted her. This smell is really quite good...

“Ah... I apologize.... I just wanted to leave you something before I left.” The girl twisted her fingers out of nervousness as she spoke in a trembling voice; “Tomorrow, I will be learning business in the far south with my father... I may not c-come back... III-I might never see Brother Xing again!

“Oh? You say you are going to leave me, yet I have not met you before.” The male in question replied rather coldly. The girl’s cheeks were red and eyes bloodshot as she cried. “No! I see you every day, looking from behind the walls! Everyday....” She looked so pitiful that even Chen Li could almost not help but dismiss her as a silly child.

“Ah? Too bad, that’s too sad. I have not seen you before. Not even once.”

Chen Li stared at him in shock, speechless. Was this really him saying this? Even adding such venom into his words!! On top of that, Xing Yun was even smiling! He looked at her coldly as he emphasized each word, as though they had a blood feud and he was taking revenge on her.

The girl’s face was deathly pale, staring at Xing Yun in disbelief. “Have you not come to give me a farewell present or something? Or do you want one from me? Well then I’m sorry, but I have nothing to give you.... If you do not mind...”

“No...” She clutched her chest painfully as she staggered away, stuttering. “N-No Need...”

Xing Yun only waved, a calm smile still on his face. Just as though nothing had just happened, he put Chen Li down and picked up the kitchenware. “Well then, what to eat for dinner today?”

Chen Li, who was still on the floor, saw the girl loitering by the door, apparently still indigent about leaving. In the end, she simply wiped her nose and buried her head in her arms. Chen Li sighed. This girl, although she is very stupid and was terribly stubborn, her heart is still whole and pure. Chen Li really could not understand the affairs between mortal hearts.

The pots and pans clanged loudly when Xing Yun suddenly spoke; “What business should I do?”

Chen Li was completely confused.

[What do you mean? Didn’t you just come back from selling your body?]

She thought in her mind. She then discovered that he was staring intently at her. Wait. Was he talking to her? She looked at him with a bewildered expression.

“Oh?” Xing Yun threw his head back in laughter as he looked at her: “I was careless for a moment and you’ve seen through me.” He squatted beside her and teased: “How about I sell my body to you?”

Chen Li was stunned.

[ How?!? Is this guy really talking to her? How did he know? Did he know from the moment he bought her?]

She was filled was questions as she stared at Xing Yun, eyes wide.

[Was this guy, in fact, simply playing with her ever since he had bought her?!?]

Xing Yun smiled slightly.

“Yes, I was playing with you.”

Chen Li didn't move a muscle, forcing herself to stay calm amidst the provocation. She looked at him in amazement.

“Also, my name is Xing Yun, not “this guy”, remember it well and call me properly. And again, so what if I sell myself?”

[Pretending to sell himself.... Teasing her... Is he not just simply destroying her pride?!? Does he really have no morality?! How could he joke about on morals and integrity in such a manner?]

“I only teased you on selling myself, it's not as though it's a heinous crime. Do you really have to react like that? Were they really such terrible things?” He gently poked Chen Li's head, like he was trying to comfort her as he softly said: “Alright, alright, I won't let you catch me so easily next time.” As he stood up and continued to cook.

Chen Li imminently stood up and struggled to climb over the tall courtyard walls. She must find another place to slowly recover, or she will most likely die in this man's hands before she could do a single thing!!

After a long, tiring climb, Chen Li had reached the front yard. However, she was so tired that she couldn't even stand up, but only crawl. The doorway was just so close, yet no matter how much she struggled, she couldn't reach it at all! The dreary, sunset glow basked on her, making her look very pitiful. At this time, Xing Yun called out, “Come to eat!!” He walked over to Chen Li,

picking her up by the wings before returning her once again to the courtyard in front of a bowl of Risotto.

Too tired... Chen Li couldn't even lift her head up, choosing instead to simply fall asleep under the moonlight, surrounded by grapevines.

This time round, she had a dream. She was once again in her human form, lying under the gorgeous grapevines as dewy moonlight fell on her jade like skin. In the cold, she could not help but curl up, shivering. Almost magically, a blanket, seemingly from the heavens fell down upon her, followed by warmth and a faint trace of medicinal scent. She snuggled under the blanket as she fell into a deep sleep.

Xing Yun covered a blanket over her as he sat down beside her as he gently looked at her sleeping face. He smiled serenely as he twisted a lock of her beautiful long hair around his finger as he stifled his laughter: "Well, at least she's got a whole head of hair...." As he studied the sleeping face, he muttered under the moonlight: "Soft, long luscious hair...Beautiful face... Really not bad."

# Chapter 3:

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A day in March is when the night is long and day is short. Before the rooster could sing “Cock-a-Doodle-Do!!” Chen Li was already awoken, alerted by footsteps. But when she tried to open her eyes, the only thing she could see was darkness and fabric of a cloth covering her eyes. [Ah!] Chen Li thought, [How when did this get on here?! How did she get blindfolded?] She was terribly confused and surprised as the thought worriedly, [Could it be that she’s in that damned emperor’s Cosmo Sack? Or did the pursuers finally catch up to her?] Chen Li felt waves of panic as she struggled crazily, eventually managing to get out, before breathing out a sigh of relief. There was not a Heavenly Emperor, and nor was there her pursuers. She’s still lying down on the soft grass, under the grapevines. Her body, too, was still the same as before, a white, featherless, chick. It was morning, yet it was still dark with heavy fog everywhere.

Chen Li heard quiet voices talking out in the front yard and cautiously approached it. The voices were becoming louder and louder, and even from the distance she was from, she could tell that it was very crowded. From behind a door, Chen Li poked out her head and saw torches illuminating the area, 2 carriages sitting grandly. Nearby, is the commoner girl, her mother, their nannies and servants loading up the carriages with Xing Yun. In the end, when all was packed, the servants silently retreated inside and there only stood Xing Yun and the mother-daughter duo.

The middle aged mother started speaking, “Your parents passed away very early, only leaving you. Throughout all these many years, we were neighbors yet when you need help and support the most throughout the years, we have not aided you. Now when we say our farewells, my family feels very guilty. I fear that we will

not meet again, even after 10 million years, so you must take care of yourself.”

“Aunty, don’t worry. This Xing Yun knows.” Xing Yun smiled at the lady who gave a sentimental sigh and got back inside the carriage.

The girl and Xing Yun were left standing alone.

The girl looked down, not saying anything but her eyes are bright and misty. Xing Yun spoke first, “You are heading south, there must be many peach flowers, other good men.” He looked at south at the tracks. “I am not a good man.” Those 6 words weighted heavily. Chen Li lifted up her head to stare at him-His face is emotionless, radiating an almost dark and unearthly beauty, his eyes calm. It is not that he is heartless, but rather is that it is his nature to have no heart. Chen Li couldn’t help but reevaluate him inside her heart-It seems like this man is even more complex than what she first thought.

The girl, who was listening to Xing Yun, eye’s reddened as tears fell out. She bowed deeply to Xing Yun to say farewell. “Brother Xing, you must take care of yourself in the future.”

She went into the carriage and they set off, never to see again in this lifetime. Chen Li couldn’t help but sigh herself. Xing Yun, too, watched the carriage rumble away, disappearing into the distance.

Occupied by the sound of rumbling caused by the carriages, no one could hear Chen Li who sneakily snuck outside. Her eyes were

lively with spirit as she looked left and right to see no one around but Xing Yun, who was completely focused on his old neighbors. So she bolted into the alleyway, making her long awaited escape!

Chen Li ran and ran down the street, reaching the same one where she was peddled. Then, she looked back carefully for Xing Yun before sighing. That man is far too mysterious; knowing her identity and power, yet not having the slightest fear of her... She's heavily injured, not to mention that the Demon Emperors pursuers are still chasing after her as well, with no spirit power to defend herself with and so on....

Wait...heavily injured? Chen Li raised her wings, confused. Clearly, yesterday she could hardly do anything with them, yet now it takes almost no effort for them to support her escape, even making her faster!

Think carefully, Chen Li! Waking up yesterday, she had also realized that her bodily self-recovery was extremely fast... That means.... Could Xing Yun have done something to her? What problems... could it be due to the food? Remembering the other day's delicious mantou and very fragrant risotto, Chen Li started salivating before swallowing strongly.

“Oh? Why what a weird chicken!” From behind her, sounded a hoarse voice. “Don’t go any further down the street, come with me and let me make a delicious meal out of you!”

Chen Li quickly turned around, only to see a man who was reaching out to grab her by the wings. However, with so many similar experiences, how could Chen Li let him? She immediately

twisted her neck and pecked him viciously on the outstretched hand! The immensely large man cursed angrily. “Just wait and see if I don’t dare to break your neck when I catch you!!”

Chen Li swiftly ran away to the street stalls, weaving in between them as the largely statured man chased her, which in his anger, knocked down many street stalls. Suddenly, Chen Li was forced to stop to a halt, a large piece of food blocking her way to escape. Within that moment, her neck was suddenly grabbed as her body lifted into the air. “Knock it off! Calm down, the chicken is here.” A different peddler carried Chen Li as he walked away from the crowd.

Seeing the situation, Chen Li held her breath, lifted up her claws(/paws) and pulled it down roughly on the man’s skin, leaving 3 long, bloody scratches on the man’s arm. He shouted in pain, “My god, what a crazy chicken!” Before letting Chen Li go, leaving her to fall roughly to the floor, and rolled before running like an arrow until she was sure no one was chasing her, did she come to a halt and stumbled onto the floor, gasping for breath.

What to do, being a chicken is really not easy!

As she was thinking of these difficulties, the courtyard door suddenly opened with a loud squeak, slamming against the walls as a mixture of sand, sludge, and rotting leaves fell on Chen Li.

“Ai, today the streets were really crazy.”

A women’s voice sounded as a muddy leaf slid off Chen Li’s head,

landing on the floor with a “pata” noise. Chen Li was stunned as anger gathered to erupt, turning her head slightly to glare at the young women.

Those things.... Unknown filthy things, pouring down her body...

Really... Really so presumptuous!

When her eyes met the young lady’s, Chen Li realized the height difference, suddenly remembering that she was still only a chicken, and not the powerful, godly being she once was. Combined with the past few days of experience, Chen Li could only hang her head in bad spirits. During her self-pity, the women picked her up, “Ah! Whose chicken is this, letting it run around when it’s already been plucked?”

Chen Li struggled desperately, her legs kicking out wildly, when she was surprised to see a man come out of the house.

“It’s no neighbor’s chicken, I do not know where it comes from. Today, I worked hard with many jobs, why not make a delicious stew with it?”

[Stew your uncle!!] Chen Li was very angry, wanting to scold loudly, [You see a chicken, you want to eat it! Chickens are lives too, how could you all not care a single bit, ah!]

The man walked to the exit, the women sending him to the door.

He grabbed the woman's hand before touching her head gently.  
“Today, lady has worked hard.”

The women blushed crimson, her hand loosening. Not wasting this opportunity, Chen Li bit her, causing the women to gasp in pain. Freeing herself, she fell heavily to the ground before fleeing away desperately, leaving the couple to do their own things.

Chen Li didn't stop running until it had already become noon. Since she fell into the mortal world, she had met at least 10 people who wanted to eat her! Far too tired and hungry, she fell butt first into the river, swallowing 2 gulps of water in the process. She looked quietly upon the cloudy sky, looking like it was going to rain and sighed.

“Why it seems you wish to play me to death...” A sense of desolation and loneliness spread from her....

The rain rained steadily, pounding in a heavy rhythm. Within it, Chen Li forced herself to get up. She turned around, surprised to find a man with white skin and robes of a scholar behind her. Their eyes met. Chen Li couldn't help but be moved-Only after traversing the deepest levels of hell may one find that even the ugliest dandelion can soothe the soul. Although Xing Yun couldn't be compared to weedy dandelions, from Chen Li's point of view as a chicken, it really didn't matter so.

Xing Yun stared into Chen Li's eyes for a long time until his lips twitched slightly... and then... He laughed!!!

He... He... He actually is laughing!!!

Xing Yun murmured, “Foolish chicken.”, before turning backwards and retrieving and opening a paper fan from his basket as he took slow steps towards Chen Li. Chen Li is unable to run anymore, wouldn’t run. She wondered, what kind of creature is Xing Yun? She is at the end of the line, but then she suddenly thought-Even so, the worst outcome is to be made into stew. Whatever the outcome, she can accept death.

With a wave of the paper fan, the once cloudy sky seemed to have instantly turned sunny. “Cluck!, I thought that when you ran away, you would never return. I never would have thought that you came back, waiting for me.”

Chen Li hung her head in an effort to ignore him. Xing Yun, not minding how dirty she was, plucked her from the river and placed her in the basket.

“You really are impressive, escaping for a mere half a day and managing to embarrass yourself this much... Really remarkable!”

[Cluck! Go on already!] Chen Li couldn’t help but snap, [Cluck] To speak so much nonsense!!

Xing Yun smirked in reply, no longer speaking. With just a wave of the paper fan, the rain was completely blocked, not even a drop falling onto Chen Li’s naked body.

Exhausted from earlier, Chen Li stayed on his basket obediently, not taking long before she fell asleep. A chill spread from her as she dreamed, subconsciously stretching her claws and her beak snapping to bite someone in the air.

“You, a broiler chicken, really is courageous.” Xing Yun grabbed a stew ladle as Chen Li took a slight step backwards.

Shaking water off her meaty wings, Chen Li guarded against Xing Yun as she stared at him- “That’s for....?”

“Use for what?” Xing Yun smiled and asked her, “Right now, your claws are filthy and filled with grime. I can help you and wash you, or would you rather a swim in the pond again?”

Chen Li looked the other way, finding herself a big basket of wild ginseng. Using her sharp claws, she immediately cleaning her claws on the bumps. Xing Yun grabbed her paws, “Stop. Damaged ones don’t sell well.”

“You... Selling these herbs?”

“What else?” Xing Yun pulled her paws to the sink as he rubbed to wash all the mud away. When he was done, he grabbed the other paw, rather liking the process similar to preparing a meal. He smiled, peering at Chen Li, “Do you know where I get these?”

Too close, too pretty of a face, Chen Li’s heart momentarily stopped beating. Watching Xing Yun smile, she actually had the

feeling of being molested! Angrily, Chen Li shouted, “Presumptuous!” Her beak jabbed forward, pecking the unguarded Xing Yun straight on the nose! Xing Yun backed up, clutching his nose for some time, still not lifting his head.

Within Chen Li’s heart too existed a strand of ill will, but when she saw Xing Yun’s bent head, worry surfaced. She wondered if the words were too harsh, if he was offended or angered, what to do? Not to mention.... If he deals with herself now..... Chen Li kept silent.

Chen Li was anxious; When she looked at Xing Yun, his shoulders were trembling violently. But then, she somehow saw and heard him laughing wildly. Chen Li grew increasingly bewildered and was stunned. Is her beak poisonous? Did she manage to peck him crazy?!?

Xing Yun used his hands to push him back up, and with a red and swollen nose, not the least bit afraid, came over to Chen Li and patted her head. “Ai, really impressive!” Not the least bit fazed, he simply taking the brush, began to work on the wild ginseng.

Chen Li sat down in the sink, confused. To not be able to see though one... This really is her first time!

“Dumb chicken.” When Chen Li heard the mummer, she looked up only to see a ball of mud to slap her in the face! Dirt dripped down her face, landing with a loud “plop!” and blocked Chen Li’s nose! Chen Li rubbed her nose, struggling to breathe, but then the sand got into her mouth, causing Chen Li to cough and roll around in the sink.

Xing Yun just continued to wash the ginseng calmly.

That guy..... That guy.... How could he be so childish!! Such petty revenge, ugh!

Yet, Chen Li decided to stay sit at Xing Yun's home for 2 reasons. First, somehow, her physical recovery is very fast here, after 2-3 days' time, her left wing has already healed. Second, she does not want to be caught by her pursuers.

Chen Li is worried about when her magical powers will restore. If it remains useless, then she doesn't know when she can get out from here, and when the Demon Emperor will come for her. Thankfully though, the time in heaven is far faster than the times in earth, resulting in a lot more time for her.

"Come to eat!" Xing Yun called for Chen Li, causing her to jump up and head for the kitchen.

Chen Li believed that Xing Yun's food was the reason for her fast recovery so she always eats it all without so much of a crumb left. However.... Why mantou again? Chen Li stared at the dish before kicking it with dissatisfaction. Even if it is delicious, eating it everyday would obviously make one feel sick, ah!

But more importantly, she wanted meat!!!

"Not Tasty?"

“It’s tasty, but I want meat!”

“Too poor, ah.”

So quick! Chen Li hesitated and closely observed at Xing Yun who was still gnawing on the mantou. “Isn’t eating meat occasionally okay? You are not wealthy, but you also do not look the least bit poor, right?!”

Xing Yun smiled at Chen Li, “Ah too poor, my temperament really too poor!

Although Xing Yun voiced it casually, it was he that said it after all. Chen Li turned to look in the yard at the growing ginseng. “What about all of those ginseng you sell? They should fetch a lot, no?”

The proud ginseng seller simply replied, “Ah, you do not think that ginseng could never get disease and fall ill?”

Chen Li was defeated. After hesitating a long while, not daring to say anymore, she simply ate her mantou in silence.

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It was the middle of the night. Chen Li decided that Xing Yun must be asleep. The moonlight shone everywhere. Chen Li took a deep breath, and the moon light. Gashing out with her claw, she

pointed ferociously at a stone in front of her. For a moment, it looked like a ball of gold, but before once could see closely, it flashed powerfully and once again turned into an ordinary stone.

Chen Li sighed. It really didn't work after all, her body is devoid of spirit power, not even being able to do a simple Midas Gold spell! She slumped on the stone, experiencing her first frustration of life.

Chen Li looked into the darkness at the house. The night wind spread out the herbal scent from the house. Smelling this, Chen Li struggled to get up to no avail. Flapping her wings powerfully, she summoned the effort to stand up and look forward. Xing Yun could be considered as one who helped her dearly. When one receives grace from another, it must be returned. She also believes these truths. However, although she is royalty, her field of trade is on the front line of battle, shedding blood, killing people. Not saving lives. She is unable to treat the sick Xing Yun, unable to give him enough time to get a better life.

Chen Li took a deep breath and the moon light was absorbed into her body. She leaned over at it went to peck the white stone. Chen Li opened her eyes and saw the stone shine gold brightly. Yet once again, it receded. Chen Li angrily kicked the white stone, shouting, "Useless thing!!". Just as she finished saying it, she wrenched her paw back, "So painful!". Jumping, Chen Li glared hatefully at the white stone.

"You!!!"

Finally, Chen Li calmed down and went again to the stone and

continued to apply the force of “Midas Gold”.

Chen Li was focused on the stone so intently that she didn't notice a pair of eyes smiling at her within the dark courtyard, watching every action she did. Chen Li didn't know how many times she failed, yet she persisted. In the dark, the hem of a scholars robe turned as the wearer entered the house.

Xing Yun rolled around in the cupboard before taking out a dozen copper coins and weighed them a little. “Perhaps it'd be good to buy 2 taels of meat tomorrow.”

Chen Li continued to practice relentlessly on the white stone outside.

## Chapter 4:

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Chen Li tried again and again, all night on the white stone to no avail, ending up listless as she rested her head on the stone, drifting to sleep. A squeaking sound announced the opening of the courtyard door, awaking Chen Li who followed the noise to the front yard. There, she saw Xing Yun about to go out, particularly without basket nor bag. Chen Li asked, confused. “Today, you aren’t selling ginseng?”

“The ginseng is still drying in the sun.” Xing Yun patted Chen Li’s head, “I am going out to buy something nice, stay home and watch the house.”

“Ah wait, I’m going too!” Chen Li quickly twisted around and ran into the backyard and grabbed the stone she was practicing on earlier.

She quickly grabbed it into her mouth and ran back to Xing Yun, muffled as she said “Go already!” She decided, since the moonlight doesn’t work, why not try day light? If she succeed in Midas Gold, it’s just as well to buy some nice stuff back.

Xing Yun stared at the stone in her mouth before freezing for a moment, then deciding to not ask any questions, he simply smiled and said, “Oh? Are you sure you wish to go out? You know the market people, if we get separated, the next time we see each other will be you as a pot of soup. That isn’t good. How about we set a leash around your neck as we go?”

Chen Li widened her eyes, furious, “Cocky!” She spread her wings, saying loudly, “I was about to accompany you to the market with good will and gratitude, yet you say.... Come, lift me up, lift!

When Xing Yun saw Chen Li’s out stretched wings, he hesitated before making a sudden smile. He even went as far as to bend over Chen Li, holding her up in his arms and allowing her to shift for a comfortable position as she told Xing Yun, “Lets go carefully, don’t be clumsy!”

Xing Yun just chuckled, “Yes, yes, obeying the chicken.”

On the way, Chen Li repeatedly casted Midas Gold on the rock, yielding no success.

Xing Yun doesn’t care about Chen Li’s business, simply walking the path into the forest. The butcher shouted current price of today’s meat. Xing Yun ponders, the price for the meat has gotten higher, the amount he has now cannot afford the 2 teals of meat.... 1 ounce is surely not enough to satisfy the chicken’s stomach, which will result into groans and Chen Li will complain even more. Xing Yun suddenly heard a voice shouting behind him.

Oh? Who is this? Xing Yun turned around and heard, “10 copper coins for your fortune!”

Xing Yun saw a 30-year-old man, holding a banner as he examined a man’s hand saying, “From the vein’s crossing downwards, I can tell that your son is blessed with good fortune...”

Xing Yun was silent for a while before approaching the man and grabbed his palm and said proudly “Today, at noon, your house will catch on fire. If you do not go home now, in the future, you will feel regret.”

Once the words were spoken, everyone descended into confused silence. Even Chen Li popped her head out from Xing Yun’s sleeves as she cocked her head. How could Xing Yun know? In the end, the fortune teller reacted first, shouting angrily, “Ha! F\*ck, how could that happen! Stop trying to ruin my business, scram!”

The young man saw the commotion, and seeing how confident and assured Xing Yun is, he quickly started to believe him, rather than the fortune teller. He hesitated for a while, before finally taking his hand back and walked quickly into the direction of his home. Chen Li poked his arm gently, “Why did you lie to him?”

“Don’t struggle.” Xing Yun touched her head. “It’s for the 2 ounces of meat.”

Xing Yun hardly finished saying his words before the fortune teller yelled angrily. “I say! I did nothing to offend you, yet you are robbing my business!”

Facing each other, Xing Yun was calm. “It isn’t robbing your business, what I said is the truth. If you truly do not believe, then in 24 hours later, if my words become true.... Then you must be willing to compensate me accordingly. “

“Hah! Between the two of us, obviously I am obviously right in

my fortune telling! How favourable for me!” The fortune teller swore. “I, Wang Banxian have been in this business for so long, why would I believe you? Therefore, let us make a deal in front of everybody-If this kid does not come back, or what you said wasn’t accurate, than you...” He looked straight at Xing Yun. “You must give me the broiler chicken!”

Chen Li exploded with anger, her wings opening up powerfully, yet Xing Yun only quietly pressed them down.

“Relax. I’m here. No one is taking you away.”

She didn’t know what kind of strange power his words had but she, who was always going ahead and confronting everything herself, was actually comforted by his words. In this rare circumstance she chose to believe him. Such a weak mortal being protecting her...

It really feels amazing!

Time went by slowly, after noon, the young man still hadn’t come back. Wang Banxian gradually became pink as he felt more and more prideful. Yet Xing Yun still wasn’t the least bit fazed, only occasionally glancing at the meat shop, listening carefully as the prices got yelled.

After an hour, the fortune teller Wang Banxian laughed.“Ha! This guy has still not come. Give the broiler chicken to me!”

“Why should I give the chicken to you?” Xing Yun lightly replied . “Is he not over there, on his way back?”

Wang Banxian looked at the alleyway. “Nonsense! Where is the man and son?” At that second, 2 figures appeared at the end of the alleyway, and upon a closer look, it was the father and son! They quickly approached Xing Yun together before bowing deeply. “Many thanks, brother! Ah, if you hadn’t convinced me to go back, I’m afraid my children would’ve been long burned to death in the wood shed!

“Thank you, thank you, uncle!” The child bit his fingers, a dazed look in his eyes.

The young man laughed, and quickly said “ I’m sorry, I have nothing more but this. My wife has been curing this piece of meat for 2 years, look, you see?” Chen Li eyed the piece of bacon disdainfully, before shining at Xing Yun with a light in her eyes. Xing Yun shook his head decisively at the young man in reply, saying,

“ I am a gentleman.”

The father son pair headed home happily. Wang Banxian looked at them bitterly before turning to look slowly at Xing Yun who had his hand outstretched. “10 copper pieces.”

Wang Banxian slapped his forehead and said, “Hah, really a gentleman. Not at all scary, this can easily be ended as compensation.” He took out a bag with 10 coppers and slammed it

into Xing Yun's hand. He then left, only saying, “ Hmth, count it yourself””

Xing Yun only smiled provokingly, “ Soon, in the near future, all your good fortune shall rot and your family will face internal destruction.

Wang Banxian shivered, and quickly ran home down the street.

A few days later, news of Wang Banxian was quickly heard and gossiped about around the market. Apparently that day he came back home with no money. Thus, his wife took a shoe and ferociously slapped him on the face, screaming and asking why he made not one penny!? Since then, his face has been scarred red and bloody, and hasn't made another penny since.

Why did Chen Li know of such boring news? Because ever since that happened, the whole town suddenly knew of the real fortune teller. Far and wide, even the neighboring towns had heard of a real miracle fortune teller that could actually see one's future!

Seeing this piece of news, Chen Li looked up at Xing Yun. “Why it seems that you actually do know real fortunetelling.”

Xing Yun shrugged. “Just a bit.”

Chen Li was silent for a long while before finally speaking again. “Revealing the future, the gods will not accept this.”

“I know. That is why, on most days, I am selling medicine.” Xing Yun’s voice was calm and solemn, but when he saw Chen Li staring at him intently, his face broke out into a smile. “ It is heaven’s nature. To prevent suffering for another, they themselves must suffer in their stead. Everything must be balanced. “

Chen Li, who was not entirely clear on the matter suddenly felt awoken. His life is already destined to be short lived, so as such it did not matter if it was to be shortened anymore anyways. Chen Li was surprised that a mortal could glimpse into the truth, and yet, with heaven being so secretive..... You can imagine that if he had a healthy body, his power and knowledge would most likely be enough to even be able to bite back at the heavens!

Xing Yun.... Each time she digs at his identity, the truth only seems more bewildering.

In the outside, the rumors have only been exaggerated to no ends. However, it did not at all affect Xing Yun’s day to day life. He is simply still taking care of his day clinic, the sun is still rising, and the fish are still swimming.

One day, Chen Li was bathing in the sun by the lake, bored and asked Xing Yun, “Why not make a living out of fortune telling? You are so talented in that aspect.”

Seeing as how his fate is already so short, with power similar to the gods, what’s the harm of taking the high road and tell others their fortune? With his fame, even if he only worked for a day, his life would still be several times better than it is right now. However, Xing Yun had always been too indifferent-Except for the

time when he won the bacon and copper, Chen Li never saw him use it.

“That is not a good art.” Xing Yun simply said lightly, “My life is well and stable. That practice is all on self interest and not well looked or relied upon. “

Chen Li raised an eyebrow-Why there are actually mortals with good moral character! Seeing as how since Xing Yun already knew of the truths, she chose to change the subject instead. “Xing Yun, when you are cooking, do you add any medicine or elixirs to the food? If you do, let me see!”

Xing Yun only smiled while turning to look at her and said, “Hah? Do you really think that I can afford those??”

Chen Li fell silent, after all, ah.... He is a guy not even able to afford meat, how could he spare for tonics to add to the mantou? However, her self-recovery is far faster these days. As she healed more and more, she gradually grew more interested into the secret. Perhaps even in the next few days, she could even her spirit power....

Tu, tu, tu, tu, tu!!

As the two talked in the courtyard, a series of rapid knocks descended on the door. Xing Yun let out a small cry of shock before slowly heading to open the door.

Chen Li felt a little upset, but more surprised. As she stayed in Xing Yun's home, she had come to an understanding that he rarely had visitors. Other than the peasant girl, she had never seen anyone take the initiative to visit Xing Yun. Curious, she quickly ran to the door with him. But when the door opened, Chen Li felt an unmistakable dangerous atmosphere. Her breathing felt stifled and harsh as she looked around the room warily. She was shocked to see a withered hand suddenly whip out and grab Xing Yun tightly by the arm.

The power of the arm seemed to be quite great, forcing Xing Yun to stumble back 2 steps, almost trampling Chen Li to death!

The door opened and Chen Li saw that the owner of the hand was actually a women! Excitement poured from the old women when she saw Xing Yun, almost in a trance like state as she stared, repeatedly mummering,

“Immortal, Immortal.....” Her husky voice called out, “Immortal... They say you know magic, know events no one else does, and see the future... Immortal! Please help!”

Chen Li looked up at Xing Yun, who was about to speak, making everyone draw a breath in anticipation.

“Well.... You see, I’m really far to busy to help....” Xing Yun said, “Soo...”

Xing Yun barely spoke before at the other end of the street, a man yelled loudly, “Sister in Law!” before quickly rushing over to the

door and grabbing the middle aged women's arm tightly, " Sis in Law! Stop it, hurry, let's go back."

The man looked as if he was only in his 40s, but the women already had a crouched back, her face reflecting the years of old age, looking like she is tortured just from living life alone. She did not bother with the man, only staring at Xing Yun, a hopeful light reflected in her eyes. "Sir Immortal, sir immortal! I beg of you, please help me! My husband has been missing for 15 years, please help me find him! Please, sir immortal!"

"Oh! Sister in law.... You actually went to one of those faker's places.... It's been so many years, yet you are still asking, even to those people. " The sentence said by the man seemed to touch a painful spot on the women's heart, making her yell, "No matter how long, I must ask! Even if he has left for many years, he is still, after all, my husband! If I ask and search will all my might, I will surely find him one day! If I search, day by day, no matter how long, I'm sure I can find him!"

Ah... Chen Li looked down, a somber mood spreading outwards from her. It is actually a soldier's wife.... Chen Li, of all people, were especially clear on those who died during service. No matter how long their loved ones search, amidst all the corpses, you won't even be able to find the body...

Xing Yun gently pulled her hand away, and smiled lightly at the old lady, saying, "Madame, I apologize. I truly cannot find your husband, you should go home and get some rest."

The old women did not leave, instead staying rooted to the spot

and glaring, “Ha! You aren’t an immortal, you’re just a fake, that’s why you can’t help me find my husband! Even if you can’t, I want you to at least tell me of his life and death, ai!”

Xing Yun hurriedly sent the middle aged man a smile. “I’ve troubled you” He quickly made a gesture to stop talking as Xing Yun said, “I need to cook.”

The old man hesitated before hurriedly nodding his head as he half dragged, half talked the old women away. Xing Yun only closed the door indifferently as he walked to the kitchen to cook per normal. Chen Li quickly followed at his feet, asking curiously, “You can see what happened to him, right? Why not tell the women? Did you see her husband die?”

“No.” Xing Yun only said lightly, “I did not see anything at all.”

Chen Li stared at Xing Yun, shocked. “B-But....” Chen Li kept repeating that word for a long time, not knowing what to say. Xing Yun, having the power to oppose the heavens, yet not interfering with the laws of nature... Earlier, she had seen that as praiseworthy. But now... even knowing it’s wrong, Chen Li couldn’t help but want to help the 2. She knew that if her own soldiers were killed, she would never let the families and loved ones of the deceased be waiting.

Chen Li quietly looked up at Xing Yun-For the two ounces of meat, he saved a child, yet he also watched the old women cry indifferently....

He really didn't live like the typical carefree person, it could be said that he was... detached

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It was night, silent. Out of habit, Xing Yun never locks the door, making it easy for Chen Li to quickly sneak out. With a little push, she was off and ran into the darkness.

From inside the building, there was a sigh. "This chicken really is too nosy."

# Chapter 5:

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Chen Li followed the scent trail of the two from before, finally ending up to the entrance to a small dwelling. She stood in front of the door, at a loss-How to get in? Suddenly, the door creaked open. Surprised, Chen Li quickly rushed behind the bushes, hidden in darkness.

A formally dressed man in a suit walked out, holding a lantern. Why he was actually the same middle aged man that was with the old lady earlier today! “Sorry, I must go to work, or else I will be late. I’m leaving first. Please look after sister-in-law, it’s very late right now so no matter what, don’t let her go and look for that fortune teller again.

From inside, the women nodded gently. “Alright, you be careful.”

The man waved and left the home, following a path away from the courtyard. Outside, Chen Li is anxious-How can she get inside?! Suddenly though, the door opened again. The women ran out, holding a cloak as she worryingly yelled, “Ai, Da Lang, your cloak! The night is cold, make sure you do not fall sick.”

Chen Li’s eyes lit up with spirit-A chance! The door to the courtyard was opened and the women is too far away to see her. Chen Li ran quickly, and all you could see was a mere glimpse of her figure before she landed in the yard. In the yard, Chen Li quickly spotted the madame of the house in one of the rooms. The bright light illuminated her figure, causing a lonely, sorrowful feeling to emit from her. She just sat there, sewing as her

silhouette fell on the grass in front of Chen Li.

The door to her room was open, so Chen Li quietly explored the house before poking her head in through the crevice between the door and wall. At a glance, she immediately understood why she had felt that unquestionably dangerous feeling when she first saw the old lady.

Behind the women, a young man dressed in a suit of shabby light armor, gazed at her softly. His eyes were gentle and a smile was on his lips as he watched the old women mend the clothes. His face was so tender, as if he was looking at his most beloved treasure, yet whom he couldn't touch. Earlier, it was day and the sun was shining too brightly to see him clearly. However, now that it's night, his form and body is very clear to see.

To think that her husband has turned into but a mere spiritual conscious... Chen Li couldn't help but let out a sigh. The reason why she could never find her husband wasn't because she wasn't trying hard enough.... But rather due to him being with her all along.

However, when she let out the sigh, she didn't expect for the armored man to hear her! Turning around swiftly to glare at her. The stoic, black eyes turned crimson as he opened his mouth, spirit power overflowing as he rushed over to a shocked Chen Li. Her wings unfurled as she flapped them madly, "Stop!!" But the spirit ignored her as the spirit power infused her, causing Chen Li to stagger and roll backwards, knocking down several pots down as well.

“S-Stop.... Stop.....” Chen Li coughed violently, forcing off the pressure on her neck.

The spirit did not reply, just staring at her coldly, ready to attack Chen Li again.

Chen Li’s mind ran madly, thinking of ideas when she blurted out, “I’m here to help you!”

When the man heard this, he relaxed slightly, his face softening a little. Chen Li let out a sigh of relief, about to continue. However, at that moment, a side door opened, revealing the young women. The young women was unable to see the spirit, so she could only look at Chen Li weirdly. “Why is there a plucked chicken here....?” Immediately turning around, she rushed out only to for a stone to drop on her head. Her eyes rolled back and fainted.

Behind her is a dirty Xing Yun who threw the stones. With an air of frustration, he mocked, “ Cluck, Cluck, Cluck, Of course a little chicken has to go run around looking for trouble. “

Chen Li looked at him, too shocked to care about the comment. “How did you get here?”

“Climbed a wall.” Xing Yun replied before picking up Chen Li in his arms and scolding her. “Don’t you know there’s a curfew? Back, now. “

“Wait!” Chen Li shot up, standing in front of Xing Yun’s face

before pointing at the spirit. “Don’t you see that!?”

Chen Li whacked Xing Yun across the face. Her feathers that were finally peaking out did not soften the hit a bit.

“ Now do you see? I still have to help them...”

“What?”

Chen Li gestured once again to the armored man, “ You are so gifted, yet you cannot even see a spiritual conscious?”

Xing Yun only shook his head, “ I can only see through the heavens, not the supernatural. So that means I cannot see the spiritual conscious you are talking of. ”

Hearing this, Chen Li scolded herself-Just because Xing Yun is mysterious, you shouldn’t overestimate and get him involved with the supernatural! She pondered for a moment before deciding to explain it to Xing Yun, “ Earlier when the women came to our house, I already suspected something and felt a strange atmosphere. However, the sun’s yang was too strong so I couldn’t see anything. That’s why I followed the old lady here and saw him, the soul of her dead husband. Having been killed roughly 10 years ago, he couldn’t peacefully reincarnate due to some kind of extreme obsession to this world. So the soul returned back to his hometown where he drifted around his wife ever since, guarding her until now.”

Chen Li looked at the spirit, who in reply, lowered his head and nodded gently in confirmation.

“You know that she has been searching for you everyday, right?” Chen Li asked the spirit who had a bitter look on his face as he stared at the lonely silhouette before softly nodding. Chen Li asked gently,

“Then do you want her to know? That you’ve always been near her all along?”

The saddened soul brightened up with pleasant surprise as he looked at Chen Li with an almost hungry look. He looked as if he was asking her, can you?

Chen Li nodded her head confidently. “Xing Yun can relay it to her. “

Xing Yun sighed- “Hahh... You really are a dumb chicken.” He continued, “You want me to perform a ritual, dances, and gestures to relay the language of a ghost?? Tell me, who would actually believe it?” However, he put Chen Li down as he grabbed some stones and arranged it into a pattern. “ Since I’m already dragged into this troublesome matter, then I might as well do my best. However, when this ends... Don’t say that you regret it. “

Chen Li only kept silent.

Xing Yun arranged the array of stones before using finger as a

pen, began to write characters whom Chen Li could not have understood, unto the center. He then walked a few steps back and called the soul, “Come float on top of this character.”

The man obeyed him and stepped onto the character. Instantly, the stones flashed with light, and one by one, they began to light up until it reached the center where he was standing. The light gradually concentrated in the middle, and with a little bang, stood the soul. He looked just the same as before, only this time, his body seemed much more solid and real. Xing Yun laughed slightly at Chen Li’s shocked expression and said, “Cluck, cluck, cluck, Go knock the door and tell her that her husband is back.”

Chen Li chose to not ask him about what happened, and instead chose to happily knock on the door to the old woman’s home. She eagerly ran over and pecked the door with her sharp beak repeatedly. It did not take long for the old women to open the door with a frown on her face. “Tonight is so noisy! I am not quite done patching up the close, please wai.....” Her voice just couldn’t work anymore. The old lady’s cloudy eyes brightened, shining like a bright moon, glistening like dewdrops in the courtyard.

She couldn’t move a step, only croaking softly... “Salan...”

The other party in the relationship was also shocked, not daring to move. His eyes were fixed on her face, even his hands unable to move a finger. His hands suddenly clenched as he forced himself to open his mouth, yet no sound was able to come out. However, even so, she understood what he said. He called her, “Wife”, those words that she had not heard for 15 long years had suddenly flew out from the man she that she had loved.

Her eyes were long misted with tears, repeatedly calling out, “Salan, Salan... You came back... You came back!!” Her voice was trembling with happiness, her aged and wrinkled face showing a beautiful child like smile. She hastily rushed over to the array where he was and touched his face gently. Inside, they seemed to be like a photo, life seemed to be stagnated.

With trembling hands, she cradled his hair and face, words tumbling from her mouth. “Y-you came here to see me... I was not prepared, see I didn’t even get the chance to make you a meal... I waited for you to come back for so, so long.... So many years..” Her voice choked as she talked, “ I waited so long.. When I kept on believing, people thought I was crazy... Even I thought I was crazy... I almost... I almost couldn’t go on anymore! I had no idea if you were dead or alive, no traces, I was sewing clothes for you with no destination or places to send, written letters that no one could’ve read since you were gone... You were always hiding!”

She couldn’t stop the tears from falling, and as they fell into the bright array, it seemed to counteract time. Her wrinkles smoothed out, washing away her age without a trace. She looked just like a young woman, the same when she sent him off. The both looked young and carefree, with no boundary of life and death separating them.

The man’s face was sad and couldn’t help but touched the woman’s face gently with his fingers, yet they slipped through. From the side, Xing Yun silently bit his fingertip, allowing 2 drops of blood to fall into the array. The array grew brighter as the man’s body gradually became even more solid. When the man felt her heat, he suddenly wrapped his arms against the woman’s bony

body in a forceful bear-hug.

Chen Li stared at Xing Yun, stunned. “This array...” Just how could it be so powerful! To be even able to defy heaven and connect the living and the dead together!

Xing Yun only said lightly, “ This array cannot be maintained much longer. If you still wish to do what you want, you must hurry it up.”

Chen Li was once again stunned-This guy actually knew what she was planning to do all along!

She had speculated that this woman that was mingling with a ghost was the man’s obsession. However, she did not think that when she saw her husband once again, the feelings would be so strong.... After seeing each other after such a long time, it is inevitable that they both wouldn’t wish to leave each other once again.

At first, she wanted them to meet so he could ascend to heaven and complete the reincarnation cycle but now....

Seeing Chen Li deep in thought, Xing Yun chose to speak. “ Why not allow them to make their own decisions?” Chen Li was surprised and turned to look at him. Xing Yun continued, they are both ordinary people, yet they have lived this far despite being burdened by their feelings. We don’t know how much of an impact they’ll take, but having reached this point, they should at least be able to know everything so they may decide the choice themselves.

Chen Li didn't reply-She wanted them to treasure and enjoy this time, even if only temporary.

Xing Yun just sighed and suddenly said loudly, "The path of the living and dead are separate, but they will end up at the same destination. You have already accompanied him for more than a dozen year, for most of his life time. You've lived on the earth for quite long, and it will not be long until you two reunite."

The couple in question turned to look at Xing Yun, surprised. The women clenched the other's hand tightly, "A decade together..."

The couple in question turned to look at Xing Yun, surprised. The women clenched the other's hand tightly, "You've have accompanied me for a decade...?" The lady was stunned. " You..." For the first time, she stepped back and looked closely at him from head to toe. His clothes blew alongside the wind, his face having barely changed from when she sent him off. "It that right...? So you've turned out to have already....."

Xing Yun spoke up again, "Even if you force yourself to stay here, after a mere decade, she would have ran out of time. You've would have not only hurt her.... But also leave you unable to enter the cycle of reincarnation again." Xing Yun sighted, " Salan... You must choose. Stay or leave? In the end, you will meet again."

Salan turned to look at the woman, not replying. The stones were slowly dimming, making his body appear paler. The woman's face has already turned to a elderly, wrinkled state. Just looking at her now, it was hard to believe that she was the young, beautiful

maiden from earlier. The hand that was once on the woman's cheek had shimmered and slowly lost it's human touch. The boundary between life and death truly couldn't be crossed...

Finally, the man nodded his head heavily.

The plan succeeded. However, even though she was suppose to feel happy, she couldn't shake off that heavy feeling in her heart.

Xing Yun asked Chen Li, " Although I can use the power of the array to bring this soul to life, I do not have enough power to help it continue it's path to reincarnation. Are you able to do it?"

"Huh, ah yes!" After her battles were fought, she had always made it a custom to send her men's spirits to continue the circle with her own hands. Therefore, regarding this magic, of course she would be proficient in it. "Please get out of the array. " Although her spirit power is currently far too weak to do anything else, this single magic, without fail, she would be able to do no matter the circumstances. Because with this delicate magic concerning the souls of her brothers and soldiers in arms, you cannot fail no matter what, lest what might happen to their souls. Even if you have multiple injures, some even life threatening, you still cannot fail.

"Xing Yun, give me your outer robe."

Xing Yun obediently gave her his robe, allowing Chen Li to crawl snugly inside. Her body grew and grew as it began to radiate light. Soon, gold light began to shine brightly within the folds of Xing

Yun's robe, so radiant that Xing Yun and everyone else had to close their eyes.

Chen Li walked barefoot, the robe far too big. Yet as weird as it looked, it did not look the least bit ridiculous but rather, strangely dignified. Her back was straight as it slowly walked with wide strides towards Salan.

"With my name, I lead thou to thee [River Lethe](#). " Each word sounded harmonious as she waved her hand softly. Light scattering, Salan slowly got paler and paler as his figure began to disintegrate into pieces. The scattering pieces looked like bright, beautiful fireflies as they shone within the dark night. They lingered, swirling around at the women before ascending into the dark sky, alit with stars.

River Lethe-A river in mythology that souls go to before crossing into reincarnation.

"Ah.... Ah...." The woman lightly waved to embrace the rapidly scattering light, but failing, only able to watch as the lights flew.

Their long awaited ties were finally separated.

The night slowly recovered its silence as they all looked up at the night sky. Only the woman's quiet sobs sounded through the lonely night.

"Old madame." Chen Li held the old woman's hand softly, saying gently, " He did this for you. He is better off leaving.... He cares for you very much and loves you. We hope you recover and live a

happy life.”

“Love....” The woman was silent, but Chen Li could see that a road is still long. “ I will always love him. That song that he was humming earlier.... It was that same one that was sung during our wedding....He wished for me to be happy...” Her tears wet Chen Li’s hand as she silently accompanied the woman back to her room.

The woman seemed to be tired and fell asleep quickly, tears drying on her aged face.

Chen Li looked at her softly for a moment before quietly closing the door and leaving. As soon as she stepped out, a wave of dizziness hit her. With all the spirit power she has used up today, she had almost dried it all up. She walked in circles before unsteadily toppling over, about to fall on the ground when Xing Yun caught her gently. With a slight poof, she returned back to a chicken, shocked. Xing Yun only chuckled as he lifted her up into his arms.

“So the results-Are you satisfied?”

# Chapter 6:

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“So the results-Are you satisfied?”

Chen Li knew that he was talking about the couple’s affair. She stayed silent before opening her beak. “ These results, 15 years long overdue. Even if it was done then, the result would’ve still been one of grief. ”

When one has died, no matter the time, no matter the outcome, the result always wouldn’t be good.

Xing Yun smiled lightly. “Oh? So you actually do have sentimental feelings to mortals...”

“On the battlefield, I have watched far too many die, their souls led astray. “ Chen Li’s tone was heavy, serious and stricken with an undertone of grief. “ I do not know if I have done the right thing and helped the woman today, so I do not know if these results are good or not... However if I had a family with loved ones waiting for me and died, the thing I would desire most is for them to forget about me. Quickly forget and move on, not wallowing in the past; Only in the future can they be happy and lead a real life. “

Xing Yun hesitated with a complex look on his face, but a smile forcibly restrained on his lips. “ Stupid chicken. If leave the past locked away, than we cannot truly experience life. “

In his arms, Chen Li poked out her head to look at him before settling into a comfortable position and said, “You are also right. “

“Let’s go home.”

Xing Yun, with Chen Li in his arms, soon reached the courtyard. The two swiftly opened the door and entered the home, the two too tired to sense the person hidden in a cloak within the courtyard. When the two went deeper into the room, she came out. It was woman once hit by Xing Yun with the stones! As she watched the duo walk away, she couldn’t help muttering, “Ah gods... Madame, they really are gods...”

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Incense wafted out of the house, ebony wood reflecting the light to where a man sat, writing calligraphy as he listened to his subordinates report. He sat aside the pen, his voice smooth as he spoke. “Is this the truth?”

The man trembled as he kneeled beneath him. “Even if you gave me 10x the guts, I would still not dare to lie to the prince. For the past few years, my sister in law was insane after the loss of her husband. However, for the past 2 days, she had calmed down, behaving like one normally would. It was believed to be the work of the gods! My wife had personally witnessed it, but fell into a coma and was unable to retell the whole story. However, all the neighbors had seen a huge flash of gold light on that day. Also on that day, the deity gave his chicken his coat and transformed her into an immortal beauty! The woman wore it, but when he turned her back into a chicken, he had forgotten it there.”

“That seems interesting.” The man’s phoenix eyes curved up, “Fu

Sheng, bring that man here into the palace, let's see what his ability truly is.”

“Yes!”

---

Within the small courtyard, it was as calm as always. The grapevines grew just right, blocking the sun and providing shade for the increasingly hot temperature. Xing Yun laid down on the cool grass to rest when he suddenly felt the edge of the rocking chair hitting him. He opened his eyes to peer at Chen Li who was sitting on the rocking chair.

“Ai, Why can't you change me back already!!” Chen Li rocked the chair on him again, angrily shouting, “ On that night, even with drained power, you obviously succeeded in turning me back to normal, no?!? In the past two days, you've recovered almost all of your power, so why won't you change me back??”

Xing Yun blinked lazily before turning his head back to ignore Chen Li. “Quiet. “ Xing Yun looked at the clothes Chen Li had dragged over and lazily replied, “ Get inside the clothes and change into it. If you were to appear as a human without it.... Better not. “ His voice quieted as he suddenly remembered when she had appeared as a human before. Her back was straight and tall, her beauty radiant. At that moment, Xing Yun really could not figure out who-or what she was.

As Xing Yun thought, Chen Li stood up to look at him. “ That day, you had used a powerful array. Can you construct another

one? Or are you using the day or moon light's essences instead?"

"Those arrays don't need to be set up again." Xing Yun laughed lightly. "After so many days, you still cannot feel it?"

Chen Li was stunned for a few seconds before turning to look left and right, noticing that the stones were all placed at certain sections, the grass all growing in accordance to special rules. Although they look very old, if one looked closely, they could see that it formed a line. At first, Chen Li was confused, but now it came crashing to her. It was an array! No wonder her physical recovery was so fast, it was actually due to this array all along...

"Xing Yun, the more I get to know you, the more mysterious you seem to be..." Chen Li started to inspect every inch of the small courtyard before squatting in front of Xing Yun. "Although your abnormal fate as a human could be put into consideration, it still doesn't explain how you could possibly have such a mastery over these arrays and magics. With so much power... In the end, what will you do for the people?

Xing Yun only smiled lightly. "Good people."

"You are so eccentric." Chen Li paced, saying, "Your temperament is weird, your behaviour is so weird, so weird! You look and treat me normally, despite my current form." Chen Li walked in a circle. "No feathers, able to talk, even being able to change into a human form, yet not the least bit curious nor afraid of me.... You even let me stay home alone and do as I wish... Xing Yun, have you already foreseen the future roads? The result of this...?"

“Did I not already say, fortune telling is not a good skill. I do not like doing it. I ignored your origins merely because I simply wish for nature to take it’s place. I can accompany you peacefully without any need to know of your background. If I dig too deeply, I may end up farming myself. Right now, I can do as I wish. There’s no benefit. So why should I?”

Hearing this, Chen Li was stunned into silence. Only after a brief period of time did she open her mouth to scold sternly, “ You must’ve been a rotten ass that got kicked out of heaven, now!

Hearing this, Xing Yun was confused before breaking out into a laugh.

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Throughout the rest of the morning, Xing Yun kept silent. When it was time for lunch, he opened up the packet of bacon and ate it all up, not leaving a crumb. He didn’t spare a glance at Chen Li, who was sitting next to him throughout the entire meal.

After he was done eating, he picked up Chen Li and placed her in front of the empty plate. There was only 2 drops of oil left and not a single hint of meat. From the side, Xing Yun sighed with satisfaction as he rubbed his stomach and chuckled at Chen Li. “ Look see, I just wanted to prove that I am not indeed a rotten ass that has fell down from heaven. Ah see, look how nice I am. “ After saying his words, he left, taking the plate with him. He didn’t even allow Chen Li to have those few drops left, leaving her to vent out her rage on the poor table.

“ Spit it out!!! Spit it all out, you dumb thing!”

As Xing Yun walked inside the house, the doorbell rang. Letting out a small cry of surprise, Xing Yun went to open the door with the plates in hand. In the front yard stood 3 tall men, all wearing fancy clothing and a sword in hand. Looking closely, they actually looked like the guards that were in the old lady's home! 1 man stood in front, wearing a red collar on his garment whereas the other 2 wore cyan. Standing in a line, they looked solemnly at Xing Yun. The red one started speaking, “ The prince invites you to the palace.”

“Sir, I think you've got the wrong man.” Xing Yun chuckled lightly before taking a step back, wanting to close the door. Suddenly, the two men previously standing silently had grabbed him roughly on each side, and without explanation, began forcibly drag him out of the home. In this moment of carelessness, the plate Xing Yun had carried over fell on the ground. With a loud crack, it shattered into pieces!

Yet the red collared man didn't blink an eye as he continued to stare straight at Xing Yun, saying, “Whether or not we've found the right person, we shall naturally take all responsibility. If you will, please.”

Xing Yun acted like he didn't hear anything, only lifting his lip into a thin smirk. “ I do not like being forced to do thin-” Before he could finish, the red collared man had already thrown a punch straight at Xing Yun's stomach, forcing him to double up in pain, unable to stand up for quite a while.

Not bothering to wait for Xing Yun to recover, the red collared man dragged him out onto the road.

“I also do not like people who talk back to me with nonsense.” His eyes held contempt as he stared at Xing Yun before waving his hand. “Take him away.” The other two cyan collared men dragged Xing Yun through the road, not caring about how beaten up he was.

However, Xing Yun lowered his body weight and dug his heels into the ground of his front yard, refusing to leave his property despite how injured he was. During his struggle, he had accidentally kicked one of the stones upside down. A moment later, a bright array of golden light flashed from the house. From within the light, a woman’s voice yelled angrily, “Go ahead and beat him until he spits blood, then scram!”

Hearing this, despite his pain, Xing Yun managed to let out a weak laugh.

“Who?!?” The red collared man who was about to initially kick Xing Yun again, turned around to see a figure standing amidst the golden light in front of the house. Looking closely, he was shocked to see a woman dressed in filthy clothes, her long hair bound by a piece of torn cloth walking out from the house.

Although Chen Li meant her earlier words, when she walked out and saw Xing Yun’s bent body in front of the guard, her brows wrinkled with distaste. Chen Li stared at the red collared guard, saying angrily, “Who are you, to injure my people into such an extent, to dare anger this.... Girl under her present state. Are you

too ignorant, or are you simply just wishing to die?"

Chen Li was famous throughout the heavenly realm as someone who would not allow others to hurt or even scold her soldiers. If they had to be punished, she had her own way of doing it, with punishments as severe as taking away  $\frac{1}{4}$  of their lifespans. Even if it was the demon emperor, she would still not allow him to punish her soldiers! To place it nicely, one could say that she loves her solides as much as she would for a son. To put it realistically, she cares too much about her own pride than letting others deal with her men. To hurt someone under her, the Azure Sky King, was similar to courting death!

However, the red collared guard only frowned. " This girl's mouth is too big. " He examined Chen Li from head to toe. Although with her lack of proper clothing, making her look very embarrassing, she was indeed a true beauty. Her eyes were breathtaking as the light reflected off of her long, shiny hair. Coughing slightly, the man retorted, " I follow the orders of the prince to take him into the palace as a guest. I hope that madame gets the message. "

"I get the message?"

Chen Li's eyes narrowed. Her hair was tied up, and today she was facing a mere human guard and not a ghost. Although her magic is currently not strong, keep in mind that her skill in martial arts are more than enough to finish off the guards. The 3 guards didn't react when Chen Li's hand made a swishing noise as 2 pieces of scrap metal flew at the leader's feet. "Why don't you teach me what the message is, ah?"

# Chapter 7:

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The red collared guard's pupils shrank, not moving a muscle. His mind felt as if it was spinning for a moment before a sharp pain pounded on his head. Taking advantage of his blindness, Chen Li grabbed him and the other 2 guards before throwing them against the courtyard door!

Chen Li stood in front of the heap of men, a look of contempt on her face. “ Even if you were the descendants or even the king himself, I would still not let you off with hurting my people!”

The door shut, leaving the three men only able to groan with pain as they supported each other up. They all stared at each other in silence, not sure of what to do. From inside the courtyard, 3 stones suddenly dropped on them painfully. As fast as an arrow, the 3 guardsmen ran, not daring to even stay a second longer. Unexpectedly though, one of the guardsmen stopped and cautiously stared at the home before taking out a card.

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After a moment of silence, Xing Yun looked calmly at Chen Li.

“Say, when did I become one of your people?” A faint smile was on the edge of Xing Yun’s lips as he clutched his stomach painfully.

Chen Li did not answer, only staring coldly at him before pointing to the stone that he had kicked when he was being dragged out. “What is that?”

“ A stone.”

“Do you want a beating?”

“Uh, well it’s actually the centerpiece of an array stone...”

“Why put an array stone here?”

“In order to suppress magical powers.”

“Why would you need to suppress magical powers?”

Xing Yun looked at her, hesitating before finally letting out a sigh and admitting, “ This is the array I have put up a few nights ago, since otherwise you would be running around here and there with power to do your own activities like before; That would not be good, nor would it be convenient to play wi-..... Naturally, it’s to defend you and me from beings that are far too powerful and give us a place to relax. That after all is most important, to create a peaceful place for us to live. Not to mention a man and woman sharing a room is not proper.”

“In other words... A few nights ago, I would’ve once again been able to return to a human form...” Ah yes, on that day, he was sending off that commoner girl. Chen Li’s eyes were frosty as she retorted, “Ah, but that day when I went out, if I could’ve returned to my human form, I wouldn’t have been scrambling around and almost made into chicken stew!”

Ah... She should’ve phrased it less embarrassingly...

“Ah about such a matter,” Xing Yun shook his head, letting out a helpless sigh. “ I didn’t expect for you to see through the secret nor escape, really sorry. “

Helpless.... Sad...?!? He actually had the nerve to even feel sorry for himself! Please, she should be the pitiful one here!

This guy, in the end, actually could’ve just moved the stone all along,... Ai, how much of her dignity had she lost already!! No... This guy, he must see her as a joke, enjoy seeing her struggle in vain!

Chen Li felt her killing intent surge, enough to scare someone into a seizure. “ If I do not kill you, I am afraid my heart will never have enough blood out of anger!” Her teeth clenched as she stressed out each syllable to Xing Yun. However, when she looked at him, she was shocked to find him clutching his stomach as he kneeled on the floor in front of Chen Li who glared at him. “ Don’t even! Hmth, it’s too late to apologize!”

“No, just.... Cough, cough.....” Before he could finish, his whole body slumped forward lifelessly and fainted.

Chen Li felt shocked as she watched him, hurriedly catching him. She felt slightly panicked as she placed her fingers in front of his nose, feeling for breath. Only now did she remember that Xing Yun was in the end, a frail and weak mortal. After being beaten by the guard so heavily... How could he bear with it? Chen Li’s furious temper felt like it just had a pot of cold water poured on it. When

she received little response, she chose to kneel down and check his pulse instead. Fingers on the neck, she felt it.

Weak. Slow. Almost to the point where it was on the verge of death.

Hmm... To throw Xing Yun into the courtyard before leaving him and striding away grandly or, carry him over and help him lie down on the rocking chair.... Chen Li debated in her head, hesitating as she looked at Xing Yun's body.

Chen Li believed that Xing Yun should definitely pay for playing her as a joke for so many days; He cannot die to escape punishment! Scavenging around the home, Chen Li searched and searched for the medicine Xing Yun normally sold. When she found them, she heaved with effort as she carried piles of medicine to Xing Yun. Walking in front of him, Chen Li observed the fainted Xing Yun. Pondering a little, she forced open his mouth and proceeded to dump the medicine into Xing Yun's open mouth.

“Wai-!!” Under this moment of peril, Xing Yun awoke frantically. His face was pale as he coughed up some of the choked medicine. He pushed Chen Li's clumsy hands away with a sigh. “I can do it myself.”

Chen Li arched an eyebrow. “ Were you simply acting out of cowardice?”

“Ah no, earlier, I really did faint. I've just woken up and only wanted to enjoy the sensation of being cared for. “ Xing Yun

laughed. “But I suppose I must’ve hoped too far. “

“You really have hoped too far!!” Chen Li glared angrily, “ Today, you’ve eaten all of the bacon, teased me so many times, I’ve even had to help you with some scumbags today!” She struggled to restrain her anger, her legs splayed out as her bum fell to the floor unconsciously. When she registered this, she suddenly remembered that she was no longer a chicken! Her body stiffened up from embarrassment as she jumped up onto an squatting position.

Alas, Xing Yun looked as if he was already fully healed as he laughed at Chen Li, “See? You really are much more comfortable as a broiler chicken, right?” Despite his ill appearance, his face was still enough to make one’s heart beat.

However, regardless of Xing Yun and his face, Chen Li clenched her fists as she took deep breaths before sighing.

“ Do you think there’s a reason preventing me from killing you?!”

One could feel a mixture between awe and murderous intent, yet he not only listened happily, but even let out a calm smile as he scolded . “ Stop it, give me the medicine. I’ve saved half the bacon in a secret place in the kitchen. If you want it, I need to recover. If you are still hungry, I can cook you a bowl of broth to drink.”

Critical hit! Chen Li staggered back-Xing Yun’s smoothly crafted words had easily deflected the hit.

The reason to kill.... So easily gone....

Unable to find a reason to clench her fists any longer, Chen Li thought that within this house, he must've set up an array so he could always get the upper hand!

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Chen Li's human form has been restored, but her foundation is presently very unstable. For example, her powers had still only recovered 1-2 percent. All afternoon, Chen Li was wondering about when she will have to leave this small courtyard. Xing Yun's fight had been placed of great timing, undoubtedly helping her restore her powers even faster. However, if she stays, the demon emperor will surely find her, and when that happens, the mortal....

"Help me get the bacon. "

Xing Yun's voice suddenly sounded from the kitchen, "The meat is strung up too high. My waist cannot bend, I cannot get it. "

Chen Li looked at the struggling Xing Yun, a flower of guilt slowly blooming in her gut. Her pursuers chasing her are bad enough, if this mortal gets involved... Chen Li sighed, "Where?"

She got and walked to the kitchen, looking up to see a long piece of meat hanging from a beam at the top of the kitchen. At the side, Xing Yun handed her a long pole to reach it. Chen Li chose not to take the pole, instead grabbing a bowl and throwing it like a frisbee

at the bacon. The bowl cut the string holding up the meat and flew back through the air with a graceful curve, just in time to catch the bacon before flying safely down in Chen Li's hands.

Showing off such a skill, Chen Li naturally felt very proud. Relishing the feeling, Chen Li snook in a glance at Xing Yun, wishing to see him marvel at her prowess. Yet when she saw him, all he did was walk calmly to the stove to take out a extremely dirty rag and gave it to her, "Great. Now that you've taken all this effort, might as well wipe the beams clean with this as well."

Chen Li stared at the cloth in her hands, it's color too filthy to even discern its original color, dumbfounded. With a subtle tone in her voice, she asked slowly. "Might you know who that you are ordering about?"

Xing Yun just laughed, carefree. "I never asked you about who you were, nor your identity. So how would this little humble commoner know?"

Chen Li's face became even more ugly.

Xing Yun could only shake his head helplessly as she threw away the rag. "Ah, okay, okay. You don't want to mop, then you don't have to... Come, at least help me with these 2 pots of water." Chen Li only stared at Xing Yun coldly. In response to this, Xing Yun folded, his arms clutching his stomach as he cried out, "It hurts! Doing this all to feed you... My injury hurts!"

Chen Li just clenched her mouth as she twisted past Xing Yun.

Being mistreated whilst in the wrong body may be somewhat acceptable, but currently could not! However, when she tried to get past him, her chest had actually brushed against Xing Yun's. If this was a normal situation, perhaps Chen Li could've gone faster and no one would've knew.... But alas, dressed in Xing Yun's overly large robes, her hem got stuck on a hook, leaving her in an very embarrassing position.

When Xing Yun glanced down, his eyes widened as he backed up slowly, his posture awkward. A cautionary distance away, Xing Yun cleared his throat with a cough loudly, “Look, uh, I’m not saying that it’s hard for me...”

“What is not hard, hmph! Making so much of a fuss!” Chen Li reverted back to her look of arrogant indifference as she quickly unhooked the robes and strode out from the kitchen as nothing that had just happened affected her in any way.

Xing Yun leaned on the stove, not moving. When the heat on his body faded, only then did he begin to move his back with tiny movements as he slowly stood up. His eyes moved as they looked past the doorframe to a small corner in the courtyard, landing on a figure of a woman lying down near the little pond as she scooped up water with the ladle. However, despite lying there for such a long time, she still did not even scoop out a single pail of water.

Xing Yun who was at the side, unconsciously rubbed his chest with his hand, feeling that it will take a long time for the water to come, better to just stir fry it with some oil instead...

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Chen Li stared at the water, poking at the reflection staring back at her-Ai, really, what is wrong with this little courtyard! She stared at the maiden in the water with disbelief-It looked just like her, yet her cheeks were painted with a pink flush! Ai, Ai, What happened?! Who was it that painted her face? Chen Li felt like this couldn't be possible.

The grand and famous Azure Sky King. Who wouldn't know of her? Yet today because of a single mortal.... Had blushed.

"Cluck, Cluck! Time to eat. "

Chen Li wasn't sure about how long she had been immersed in her thoughts, but when she heard Xing Yun's cry, the blush that could hardly be seen for hundreds of thousands of years immediately disappeared. " This.... One's name is Chen Li! Don't you dare use "cluck, cluck, cluck, to call for me again!" She turned her head around to see Xing Yun standing with a plate in his hands in the doorway, his shadow long against the grass. Looking at him, Chen Li unknowingly stared at him, distracted.

Seeing Chen Li stare at him in such a strange manner, Xing Yun's eyes blinked, and rolled into a circle before his lips spread open as he laughed. " Chen Li, time to eat. "

Seeing how Xing Yun had finally changed his manner of address, Chen Li nodded in a satisfied manner. Then, Xing Yun opened his mouth again, " King, your meal."

“It’s Chen Li! Are you looking for a fight?!”

Those phases, “cluck, cluck, cluck, “ changing to “Chen Li, “ before adding “King”, no one has ever said those in that order to her before. Making Chen Li reply in that manner... It all felt very foreign to her.... It felt almost as if she had found a home to live a carefree life.

Chen Li stared at the meat on the plate before looking at Xing Yun. “If you’ve ruined this meat, you have to give me some more. “

Xing Yun laughed softly. “ But what if it is too delicious? What would you give me?”

She pondered for a moment before opening her mouth. “If it is too delicious, than I’ll cook you something even better!”

Xing Yun looked stunned, then only smiling without a word.

If one could make ordinary bread turn delicious, how could the meat not be amazing? As the result, the next day when Xing Yun went off to sell wild ginseng at the city, Chen Li, with a manner of life and death, came up to him and thrusted 2 large, stone sized pieces of gold into his robes and told him seriously- “Buy meat!!” But even with Chen Li’s deathly serious request, he gave it back. He was afraid that bringing 2 large pieces of gold into the marketplace simply to buy huge bulks of meat would definitely get him arrested by the government from suspension. Thus, he refused.

Suddenly, there was a knock on the door. Hearing this, both Xing Yun and Chen Li turned to look, her brows creasing-The last time the door was knocked, 3 guards had stormed in and beaten Xing Yun up. Quickly, Chen Li threw the stones onto the ground, pointing at them quickly. Within seconds, the gold color seemed to melt as it faded away and became normal stones once again.

Xing Yun went to open the door, but before he could touch the knob, Chen Li stopped him. “I will go.” Without waiting for Xing Yun to reply, she walked 2 steps forward and opened the door. There stood 2 men, dressed in the dark navy clothes of a guard. A sword were on their belt and a jade emblem were proudly created upon their chest. When the two saw Chen Li, they both bowed politely.

“Apologies for our disturbance. My master wishes to come visit you two tonight, and requests that you two will stay here and wait for him. In your house, we’ve also planned to arrange some stuff and look around.”

“But why when he comes, we must accept it and wait obediently in our homes?” Chen Li frowned, “No time today, tell your master that he should go cancel his visit. When we have time, we will go invite him over.” The door moved to close.

The two blue clothed men were stunned-They have admittedly never received such treatment before. When they saw the door moving, they immediately reached out their hands as they tried to stop it. However, this woman who did not seem to have any power, suddenly slammed the door shut. The two guards didn’t even get the chance to touch the door before a heavy pressure suddenly

descended on them, not even able to move a finger as it pushed the two away.

The two exchanged a deep look before apparently both coming to a solution. They stepped back as they took a deep breath, preparing to forcefully open the door. But then suddenly, the door opened. In the doorway stood a man, dressed in white with a sunny smile on his face and behind him was the maiden from earlier. He asked the two blue clothed men,

“You want to look around and change some stuff? Ah, of course, come in, come in.” He opened up the door widely. However, despite his optimistic cooperation only making the guards even more worried, they both still walked in.

Xing Yun led them into the kitchen, pointing at the beam overhead. “Ah, it’s too dirty. The cleaning rag is under the stove.” He patted one of the man’s shoulders, “Here, this is your job.” He then walked into the hall with the other guard, “Ai, this hasn’t been swept for quite a long time. Help me get this place clean, that way your master can enjoy a pleasant visit.”

After he arranged some place for the two to work, he then walked and grabbed his basket before patting Chen Li’s shoulder’s in a similar fashion. “Ah, Chen Li, supervise them won’t you? I need to go and dig up some more ginseng, and will be back soon.”

All that could be heard was the courtyard door slamming shut, his back disappearing from sight, leaving Chen Li only able to twitch her mouth. This guy... Is really so incredible! Really cannot be seen through!

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At night, in the front yard.

Xing Yun boiled a pot of tea, gazing at the clean, clean home with a satisfied manner as he listened to the heavy sound of approaching foot steps gradually get louder. Chen Li was holding a cup of tea as she stared at the courtyard, looking a little unhappy. Xing Yun smiled at her, “To be able to see a Crown Prince, no matter what the outcome, is quite good. So why are you making a face worse than weeping?”

“Who has such a face?” Chen Li immediately shot back. “You’ve already foreseen that it’s the Crown Prince! Tell me, if the master supports such foolish and arrogant subordinates, then what kind of terrible manner would he have? Do you really believe that he would be good?”

Xing Yun only smiled as he sipped his tea, not giving a reply.

With a snap of a whip, the grand carriage stopped, its luxurious body taking up almost all of the alleyway. Dressed in red silk, he slowly walked down the carriage. Chen Li squinted her eyes, peering at him closely. A pair of hooded eyelids, small, cherry red lips, all good features, but massive layers of fat were rolling off his body. Chen Li almost even felt worried-Is he okay, living with so much fat on his body?!?

During this time, the Crown Prince walked to the front of the door and stared at Chen Li from top to bottom before moving into

the courtyard. The many attendants that he had brought with him attempted to follow. But before they could, Chen Li moved out her hand to block the way. “ There is only space for one chair, only one person. “ Hearing this, the royal guards hands instantly moved towards the hilt of their weapons, but the round faced prince only waved his hand. “Wait outside.”

Chen Li raised her eyebrow, impressed-You really can't judge based on one's appearance!

# Chapter 8:

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The entrance door was closed. If one looked around, they would see that only Xing Yun, Chen Li, and the Crown Prince were the only ones in the courtyard. However, all 3 of them knew clearly, despite the emptiness, that there were the presences of many others within or around the courtyard.

The prince sat down on the stone chair, casually remarking, “To meet you really isn’t easy, ah.”

Xing Yun smiled, “It’s still easier than seeing the Crown Prince himself. “

Chen Li had lived a long life through her childhood in the battlefield, and often gone to the imperial court due to achievements from the military. When she meets officials that are bold and upright, she is fair. However, what she hates most are those lying and manipulative scoundrels, she really cannot deal with. With no skill at sweet talk and unable to curry favour, Chen Li chose to instead head inside the kitchen and search for the basin to scoop water for cooking.

“But for a commoner to be able to meet the Crown Prince, one must have some kind of ability, no? After all, it’s said that you are able to connect with the supernatural, meet spirits and see the future. My heart desires to view how such things happen, to see the arrays at work. I do not know if you will show me?”

“I don’t dare.”

Seeing him disagree so quickly, the Crown Prince's face darkened. However, Xing Yun didn't seem to see as he continued innocently. "I really do not know what idea you are talking about. I merely don't like to divine for gold or anything, and I really can't see nor understand these supernatural beings you talk about. If the Crown Prince still doubts me, feel free to come over another time, or even just go and ask someone else. "

"Oh?" The prince carried a mocking smile. " Your stubbornness is doing nothing but lowering your own value. Tell me, if you guess what is in my mind right now, I will give you riches and power! Even when I become the Emperor, you will receive the title of an Emperor's aide-Below one, above hundreds!"

"I refuse." Xing Yun shook his head.

"Think clearly-There's no one that would refuse this. What's there to lose when you gain riches and glory?" The prince inspected the courtyard. " This tiny shabby courtyard you have, if you accept my offer, just how easy would it be for this to change?"

Xing Yun just sipped his tea, no one able to decipher a hint of his thoughts. Then, he laughed. " You, the Crown Prince, keeps on bribing me with riches and titles like you've already became an emperor. Yet right now, you want to know when, and if you will really succeed the throne. After all, the current king is far past his prime, yet he is keeping a tight grip on this country; He is not even giving a hint of passing it to you. You demanded me to foretell your future, but it's not easy. However, I can tell you now, that if this place were to be destroyed, than something unfavourable will

happen.

The Crown Prince's face changed, his fat fist pounding the table so loudly that even the heavens could feel it as he shouted, "How big your guts are!"

At this time, Chen Li was looking around the kitchen, and looked out to see the commotion just in time to see the blue robed guard jump out of nowhere with a knife against Xing Yun's throat. The once dignified and calm Prince was even went so far as to throw the hot cup of tea at him! He quickly attempted the duck, but before he could, the two guards forced him up, allowing the steaming hot water to splash all over his body in a split second.

When Chen Li heard Xing Yun groan with pain and the Crown Prince calling for hotter water, her pupils shrank as her heart beat. She stormed out, her eyes blazing with righteousness. The second her foot moved out, the 2 guards instantly appeared in front of her, swords unsheathed. Seeing this, Chen Li let out a mocking sneer as she tripped and trampled on one of them before sending one flying with her kick, hitting the black clothed servant behind Xing Yun, leaving them to fall into a pile. Another blue clothed guard stopped in front of her, his sword stabbing directly at her heart. But before it could reach her, her hand slid out and gripped the blade with fingers. Her palms tightened, and with a gentle twist, the solid steel blade crumpled up like paper; The guard was so scared that he fainted right then and there.

Chen Li dropped his sword and solidly knocked him out before ignoring the guard. She moved as fast as a ghost, running to the pond and grabbing the basin, filling it with water before flinging it

at the prince. It splashed on him, the force so big that it caused his bulky body to roll over on the floor. “OW!!!” He grunted in pain, his oily hair slick with water and face flushed from embarrassment.

Although it her actions seem to take a long time, it was actually done in a twinkling of an eye; So fast that no one else from the Prince’s side dared to help him-They were all petrified.

Chen Li strided forward, grabbing the prince roughly by his collar and pulled him up. Staring directly into his slit like eyes, she asked, “ Scram, or Die?” Her whole body radiated killing intent, glowing with a faint hint of crimson as her eyes seemed to radiate heat.

“Such.... Such an audacious evildoer!....” Although he pretended to be calm as he shouted those 4 words bravely, his trembling legs gave it away. His eyes reddened from fear long before. “I’m going!”

By his collar, Chen Li dragged him to the door, opened it, and threw him outside the yard. As if he were gold, everyone struggled to catch him, the rest of the guards unsheathing their swords. Chen Li only sneered, staring at the prince. “ It seems like you want to die here. “

The Crown Prince frantically crawled into his carriage before screaming at the guards. “Go, GO!! Do not tardy!”

When the burst of chaos from the encounter was finished, the humble medicine house returned to it’s previous peaceful silence.

Chen Li angrily shut the door, only to see Xing Yun. When he saw her, particularly, the soaked robed clinging on to her skin. He quickly covered up his eyes and turned to the pond instead. Seeing this, Chen Li felt a strange sensation within her heart before fire rose up instead. “You!! Why is it that you seem so profound and mysterious normally, yet in a fight like this, you get beaten up so easily and can only get bullied!?! ”

Xing Yun saw Chen Li’s angry stare, yet he only smiled gently in return. “ Ai, I am not as powerful as you, nor did I ever say or think that you were this powerful. After all, I am just a mere mortal, unable to escape from sickness or old age. I am only able to stay bound to this earth.”

Looking at his burnt red face and his pale lips, Chen Li suddenly realised that she had once again neglected to remember, and she had no excuses. Yes ah right, he was just an ordinary person, so the boiling water can scald him, even the simplest martial art can still hurt him... Even if he can foretell the future and knows of the truths, in the end he is still made of blood and flesh-Easily killed.

Yet even so, knowing so much-Even about his own limited lifespan, he can still live calmly and peacefully here....

Chen Li could only sigh and sit on a stone chair. She kept silent, complementing before finally opening her mouth to ask a rather vague question, “ Today, my actions, did they only make the situation worse..... Caused trouble for you?”

Although today, she had beaten them very easily... But as the Azure Sky King, she knows that these actions of provoking royalty

might invite more trouble, especially knowing from experience... If the knowledge of devils and magic are revealed to the kingdom, they will surely struggle to obtain it for themselves....

“No, it wasn’t you. It was just me who created the hole, and you’ve only poked it bigger.”

Curious, “What did you tell him?”

Xing Yun laughed in reply. “To summarize it, you could say that he wanted me as a subordinate, but I did not want him to threaten me, and replied with a comment about his fat. He irritated me so I made fun of his body and hands, then you know the rest. “He shook his head helplessly. “I guess you really shouldn’t talk about one’s figure.”

Perhaps it’s just your cheap mouth, ah....

His lips suddenly changed into a slight smile. “That man and his stubborn arrogance, he was always looking forward and plotting to his father and brother’s death early death. If the country was to be handed down to that kind of trash, I’m afraid that life will be ruined.” He stopped talking and instead looked up at the stars in the sky, those who represent heaven. He looked for a long, long time before speaking again. “All the land under heaven are perhaps afraid to acknowledge a new master.”

Chen Li felt strange. “Don’t you don’t like to foresee the future?”

“This is not foreseeing. It’s only me being concerned about the sake of this nation and what happens to us.” He got up and started walking back inside, his voice distant. “ This is his current nature that is slowly coming out. As for the future... Nevertheless, it’s possible that his character may change in a better direction. “

His words being so unfathomable and mysterious.... In the end, Chen Li really can’t decide if he is strong or weak.

“Chen Li, please come and help bring some water to create an ointment from the herbs. Otherwise, my face would be left with a nasty scar.”

Chen Li clenched her teeth, “You really know how to take advantage of people!” As soon as she finished, she realised something- “Why must I help you in the first place? Whether if it was the prince or the guards, they were all your fault, no?” After all, the only thing she has to consider is when she can recover and get out of here.

When she was done, from the kitchen responded with 2 hacking coughs. Her originally angry expression converged in a sigh before obediently going to the pond to scoop the water and hailed it back to the kitchen. “Go back and rest. ” She said helplessly as she squeezed by him from the edge of the stove. “ I’ll handle it.”

Xing Yun could only stare blankly as he was moved to the side, watching as Chen Li searched impatiently through the cabinets for the medicine. Finally, she could only turn sheepishly to Xing Yun. “ Where.... Where do I get the ointment?”

A smile started to spread from Xing Yun. “ Or should I just get it instead?”

Unable to help, Chen Li could only stand to the side as she watched him adeptly beat the medicine. Despite staying for so long, it was rare for the two of them to be in a calm and peaceful silence. As she thought, Chen Li suddenly asked, “If I wasn’t here today, then what actions would you’ve taken instead? Obviously you would’ve been unable to defend against the beating, but you still would’ve retaliated somehow or pretended to be more contempt, right?”

“If you weren’t here, I would naturally not be as rampant.” Xing Yun spoke as he swirled the pot of stewing medicine. “ If you aren’t here, “ He continued naturally, a slight smile on his face. Chen Li felt a small burst of surprise as she stared at him, although he didn’t turn to reply. “ You are far more aggressive than me, Ah. Unlike my easy-going attitude, I have a valiant aura around my body rendering everyone in awe. Very handsome.”

Handsome.... Handsomeness?!?! Aura?!?

There was actually man so shameless and arrogant to say this in front of her! Chen Li felt so angry that her body once again emitted a murderous intent, but that soon turned into helplessness. Ai, what can she do?!?

Chen Li glowered at Xing Yun as she examined the side of his smiling face. Although there were still patches of red, it did not

affect his overall appearance, nor Chen Li's stirring heartstrings.

".... .... Give me the cloth, the pot is too hot, you cannot hold it." Xing Yun seemed to say something, but Chen Li was lost in her thoughts and the words fell to the back of her mind. She was still in a somewhat confused and irritated state. When she snapped out of it, Chen Li was suddenly aware that Xing Yun had long turned around and was looking at her. Chen Li moved her eyes and instead moved her hands towards the medicine pot. Before Xing Yun could stop her, she had already grabbed the scalding hot pot by the handle. The hot surface was grabbed, the medicine inside spilling.

However, she still did not let go until she put the pot down. When it was set, she glanced at her burnt hands and only blinked twice, wiping it behind her back, before telling Xing Yun, "The medicine is done now."

Xing Yun could only stare, stupefied. Despite the calm smile on her face, he could see that Chen Li were hiding her hands behind her back, fanning to cool the pain. Xing Yun sighed. " Even if this is a female's home territory, and you wish to lead... In times like these, relying on a man is fine too." He gently pulled out Chen Li's hands from behind her back and carefully inspected it. Despite the heat, it was only red with a little bit of swelling. However, if this was an ordinary person's hand, they would've already been badly burnt. "Although a man isn't even this reckless.... Luckily this burn ointment, now that it's done, can be used to treat both of us now."

When Xing Yun held her wrist, Chen Li was unused to it and

uncomfortably pulled back her hand. After deliberating for a little, she decided to change the topic. “Yesterday, when I called you a rotten ass that has gotten kicked out of heaven, you were so angered that you took all the bacon mocked me relentlessly with it. Yet today, when you got burnt with tea spilled all over you by the Crown Prince, you are not even the least bit upset. Or is it that you think it’s fun to mock me?”

“You believe that I’m not angry?” Xing Yun crumbled up the rest of the herbs to add it to the mixture. “I’m simply not in a hurry to deal with him.”

Chen Li felt surprised and looked at him. “You? Deal with the Crown Prince?”

Xing Yun smiled. “ I myself cannot do anything, but others can. Chen Li, tomorrow, accompany me to go out.”

“Oh, huh, wait, what? Why do I need to accompany you?”

# Chapter 9:

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Why Chen Li should accompany him, is obviously, for the sake of that stupid prince. After offending the crown prince in such a manner, there would be no short of killers waiting for the duo. Although there is no great benefit for the prince's side, if Xing Yun tells the emperor of his knowledge and conspiracies, then it would cause much trouble. Therefore, he must kill Chen Li, and of course, Xing Yun secretly.

Yesterday, outlining it clearly, it was obvious that Xing Yun himself is rather a simple and defenceless figure. However, Chen Li is capable of causing a major threat to the Crown Prince. He is no fool, so the killer must pick off Xing Yun when he is alone as to avoid getting slaughtered by Chen Li. It is, after all better to remove the source, than die a needless death.

It would be impossible of Xing Yun to not understand this point- So naturally, he must always take Chen Li with him.

As Xing Yun dragged Chen Li out, she suddenly frowned as she looked at the name on the door. “Rui Wangfu?”

He nodded, “The current emperor has 7 sons. The crown prince from earlier is the first born of the current empress whereas Rui Wangfui is born from a concubine. However, his mother is currently favoured by the emperor, and his family has very deep ties with the hidden power within this country. If you want to find someone that can oppose the Crown Prince, it can only be him.”

Chen Li felt surprised—"You usually are so indifferent to these things, yet you know so much!"

"Before last night, I really was clueless." Xing Yun smiled. "But to clean up this mess, I have to make preparations." Just as he finished speaking, the sound of a whip sliced sharply through the air from the corner of the street. The trampling of hooves ran down through the road before stopping sharply at the edge of the house and soon, a grand carriage escorted by guards appeared. Xing Yun slowly walked forward and shouted loudly. "Fortuneteller Xing Yun sees Prince Rui!"

He kept silent for a moment before opening his mouth. "Fortuneteller?" His voice was not very nice, resembling a sneer as he said, "A brave fortuneteller. Currently, don't you know that what the people loathe most are swindlers? This prince is no different."

Xing Yun only smiled. "If your Highness takes me as your strategist, than I can present my next plan for you-One that could even help you succeed the throne from the Crown Prince. I do not know what Your Highness thinks?"

"Why should this King believe you?

"Last night, the Crown Prince came to my abode, just to request for my aid. However...." Xing Yun paused, not finishing his sentence. "Your Majesty, if you wish to continue our conservation, we can go inside."

The carriage curtain opens, revealing a handsome man dressed in an embroidered garnet robe. Although he could be considered as very good looking, a hideously deep scar sat on the left side of his forehead, extending all the way to his mouth. Even Chen Li couldn't tell what the weapon which was used to create this was.

Chen Li secretly thought, that Emperor must have done something and offended the heavens, thus retribution went to his son!

The Prince examined Xing Yun and took a glance at Chen Li. Finally, he waved his hands, his husky voice sounding. “Take them to the backyard.”

Within the palace, there were many pavilions and courtyard. There were many warehouses, marketplaces and houses, it had everything! Where Chen Li was born, it was a desolate wasteland. It was constantly filled with scoundrels, fog, and the soul as well as remains of the deceased, haunting the place as evil spirits. It didn't even have a single blade, nevermind here, where it is filled with countless flowers and glittering lakes. But despite it's beauty, Chen Li didn't like the palace at all, and would still prefer her birthplace. The palace stank of vile depression, making her feel very sombre. The atmosphere was stiffened, as if bound by countless rules and overloaded by stress. Compared to Xing Yun's courtyard, although it was minor in comparison, the atmosphere was so free and relaxing. This place has even less freedom than the Demon World.

With the Crown Prince's attendant leading them to a pavilion's garden, they took a seat. Prince Rui was courteous as he too took a seat. They both did a ceremonious gesture to each other before

starting to chat. From a distance, they looked just like 2 officials discussing politics together. Seeing this, Chen Li began to feel woozy with boredom. Luckily though, it seemed that both Prince Rui and Xing Yun are engrossed with their discussion, and her martial arts is quite powerful.

Thus, Chen Li left the courtyard and easily shook off the servants tailing her. Such a good palace, Chen Li decided to explore!

Her eyes lit up-Not far, sat a pond and within that pond was a beautiful lotus amidst blooming. Her hand reached out to pluck it, but suddenly a feminine voice screamed behind her. “Don’t touch my lotus!”

Chen Li heard her and moved back her hand before turning her head sideways to look at the caller. Suddenly though, the woman who was calling her had suddenly appeared next to her and leaned on the fence, anxiously staring at the lotus. However, the fence was short, and within seconds, more than half of her body was over the fence, about to fall! Hands moving quick, Chen Li grabbed the woman by the strap and pulled her back before she could fall. Despite her successful save though, Chen Li hadn’t controlled her strength, and her belt got caught, ripping away!

The girl’s formal dress fell, almost causing her undergarments to rip as well. She let out a small cry of surprise, her hands moving crazily to stop it from falling. After trying to pull the top of her garment up to cover her chest, she quickly squatted down into a ball, her head down to hide as much skin as possible and took advantage of Chen Li’s tall figure to hide herself.

How smart! What a good girl, even though she has lost her clothing, she has not lost her pride!

Chen Li's heart sank. As she held the torn piece of fine cloth, she felt quite embarrassed. "I'm sorry.... I did not think that this cloth... uh, would be so fragile...."

Hearing this, the girl slowly raised her head out from her arms. Her eyes were staring piercingly at Chen Li. "You are a woman?"

Chen Li glanced down at her chest. "Is it not clear?"

Although her power has recovered by a few percent, she was usually just lazing around in Xing Yun's courtyard, and never had to change. Although she was wearing Xing Yun's dirtied clothes, when she was in the battlefield, her garments were tens of times worse than her current ones. With such circumstances, she couldn't care about how dirty his soiled robes were. But today, when Xing Yun forced her to accompany him to see the prince, he also pressured her to change and look presentable. As such, he flipped around the house, trying to find something for Chen Li to change into, only to find no such thing. In the end, she had just clapped her hands and decided to change into her normal dark clothing and bound her hair. No wonder, her hair was bound like a male, her robes were dark, strong and handsome enough, from behind, she probably really did look like a man!

The lady's cheeks were still red as she shook her head shyly, her voice soft, "No, still quite obvious, but not from the back..."

To look at her figure from behind, it really must seem quite strange....

The 2 maidens fell into silence, Chen Li noticed how the other's skin seemed so soft and creamy, eyebrows arched gracefully like mountains, with a pair of beautiful peach eyelids. Her appearance was extremely adorable, making one unconsciously want to play with her. Chen Li moved slightly to one side and pulled lightly on the cloth. The girl's face reddened even further and shuffled a few steps closer to Chen Li. Chen Li couldn't help but find that funny, and moved another 2 steps away, and she followed 2 more steps. Finally, the girl really couldn't help it anymore and begged Chen Li,

"Mi-.... Miss, please stop toying with me..... If you would kindly so, please help me find my belt.... In this state... I cannot go up and walk...."

"Belt, I have one, ah." Chen Li stood up, finding a solution. She is wearing a purple ribbon around her waist as a belt, but rather than actual utility, it was merely for decor. However, inside her outer robes, she had a thin belt tied to her underclothes. She taking off the outer belt urgently, but the girl was too busy covering her eyes as she cried out. " Ah, nevermind, no need to take off!"

"It's nothing, I just have it inside-" Chen Li couldn't finish her words before she got interrupted by a sudden shout. "Thief is bold! To dare mess in the imperial palace!"

At this ironic time, Chen Li had finally gotten her belt out and was holding it in her side. The delicate maiden's belt had ripped

and was currently covering her body with parts of her dress. If one looked at it from the back, with Chen Li's filthy robes, it really did look like a dirty thief had come to violate the innocent lady. However, Chen Li herself did not have a clue and was very confused, turning her head back to look at the guards, puzzled. The two nannies rushed to the improperly dressed pink girl, who was hastily raising her hands in a flurry. “ Do not come, do not come!!”

The two nannies footsteps slowed to a stop, “Such a brazen thief, to dare to touch the young miss!”

Chen Li twitched her mouth, “...No.....” Without waiting for her to finish, the nanny started to run around and began to make a commotion to call more people. She felt a sour feeling within her heart, the girl currently had no way of wearing her dress-If the two servants were to call many guards over, and those big, brawny men were all staring at the young maiden..... Such an embarrassment, it would be better not to live!

Chen Li rubbed her forehead in frustration before turning to look to look at the young miss. “It’s better for me to carry you to go run.”

The young miss's forehead was already beaded with sweat. “Go...? Go where?”

Before Chen Li had time to ponder, the two nannies had come back, each with a squadron of guards! She sighed, the young miss pulled on her clothes desperately. “ Ah, what do we do?! ”

“Right now, the only thing we can do is to book it!”

“What’s do you mean, cook it?”

[TL note: The young miss mistaken cook and book since they sound similar in chinese.]

The two who were talking in a panic suddenly heard a hoarse voice interrupt them. “What’s the ruckus!”

The young missus’s face suddenly smiled, but then she realised her current state and bit her lips to prevent a sound from leaking out. Pulling Chen Li’s robes slightly, she hid behind her as she gestured for Chen Li to look in front. Chen Li did as gestured and was surprised to see Prince Rui standing ahead of her with Xing Yun by his side.

Xing Yun caught Chen Li’s gaze and sighed helplessly before shaking his head, as if to say, You’ve left my watch for only a few minutes, yet you’ve already managed to stir up so much trouble!

Prince Rui approached, glancing at Chen Li before his stare fell onto the small squatting figure behind Chen Li’s legs. His brow furrowed, but his tone was soft and gentle. “What happened?” The young miss only remained silent, hiding behind Chen Li who spoke, “ There’s no need for all the guards. Make them withdraw from here.” The young miss echoed it with a nod.

Prince Rui waved his hand and the crowd dispersed. The young miss's hand loosened it's grip on Chen Li's robes. In return, Chen Li shuffled slightly to the side and coughed twice. Yet still, the young miss did not speak. Suddenly, Prince Rui bent to his knees, lowering his ear to where the young missus's lips were able to reach. She softly whispered words into his ear, causing Prince Rui's ferocious face to change. His lips were raised into a light arc, his gentle smile softening against the brutal scars on his face. He took off his outer robe and placed it gently on the young girl before bundling her and carried her into his arms. When he turned to leave, he suddenly turned around again to face Xing Yun.

"Sir, your courtyard is not equal to the palace." The two had only chatted for a short amount of time, yet the king is already even polite enough as to use a honorific like "sir" to address Xing Yun. The intent of his words were to clearly take Xing Yun under his wings as his people.

Chen Li pondered, it seems that the Prince really does trust Xing Yun. If he joins the Prince's house as his people, then she can finally leave, assured of his safety. She didn't think that Xing Yun would actually shake his head and say, "Thank you, Prince Rui for your kindness. However, I have a strong sense of belonging to my courtyard and it gives me a peace of mind. Second, I am afraid my presence here may bring unwanted troubles to Prince, so I will leave here today."

The prince did not try to force him and just nodded his head. Xing Yun and Chen Li left the palace.

"You really just can't keep out of trouble for even a moment."

After they walked a distance away from the palace, Xing Yun began scolding Chen Li. But today, Chen Li did not shout back, making Xing Yun almost choke with surprise. She continued to ignore him, only gazing in the direction of Prince Rui's palace with a frown. After a while, he looked closely at Chen Li before asking hesitantly, "You haven't fallen in love for another man's girl, have you?"

"No, I am just curious about why the prince would want to raise a demon."

Xing Yun was startled, but then Chen Li just waved her hand. "Ah well, it doesn't matter to me." She turned to stare at Xing Yun. "But you. Why didn't you take advantage of the opportunity to stay at the Prince's palace? This way...." How could she escape? Opening his mouth, Xing Yun patted Chen Li's head.

"Let's not quarrel. Today, the prince was generous and gave me some coins. Today, we can buy some meat to eat."

Chen Li's mouth twitched, finally deciding not to say anything. Nothing more to do, seeing how so long they've already been together, might as well help him finish this problem and protect him for a few more days.

# Chapter 10:

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Incense wafted out, windows were covered dead tight, walls were affixed with evil warding tasmanian. Inside, sat the Crown Prince on a sandalwood throne, a cold look on his face. “Rui Palace, to think that they would find such a place.” He was livid, throwing down a jade brocade violently, making the mug on the table tremble. Nearby, kneeled a black robed man who kept silent. “I must not let them stay there.... Fu Sheng! Where is the monk and warlock?”

“Reporting to Prince, they are waiting behind the door.”

The Crown Prince nodded, satisfied. “Well, well, good. Let’s see what kind of capability they have.”

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In the small courtyard, the grapevines danced with the wind. Chen Li looked at the clusters of grapes that were bearing fruit, yet she was unable to eat since it had reached the end of its lifespan and was wrinkled. She sighed, if the food that he makes were so delicious, then the fruit trees he grows must be so as well. Chen Li was determined that she would leave within 3 days, no matter Xing Yun’s state or trouble. She no longer has an excuse to stay, and even if she were to, she would only make things worse. The threat of the Crown Prince is manageable by staying in the royal palace, but the threat from the demon world.... What can a mortal do against that?

“Bang” A sound echoed and Chen Li turned to look. From the front yard of the house where the medicine was sold, Xing Yun was struggling to carry a large stone. Sweat was pouring down his face, his lips taut as he planned to move again. He looked focused,

almost obsessed with. Seldom able to see Xing Yun in this kind of manner, Chen Li couldn't help but stay and stare at him. From within her heart, unconsciously rose an idea; How wonderful it would be if there was no arranged marriage waiting for her.

If there was no arranged marriage, then she wouldn't have to flee. If not for that, she wouldn't have to be as anxious to flee from here, she could've....

She could....

Do what?

Chen Li's mind finally fell back down to earth. An idea had popped out , yet she had forgotten in a blink of an eye. What was it, that her heart had been looking forward to, ah?

.....

“Chen Li.” Soon, a call from the front yard interrupted her thoughts. She threw off the mixed mood within her heart and walked to the front yard.

In the front yard, the scattered stones making up the array had been rearranged. Xing Yun stood in front of a large vat of water and beckoned to Chen Li. “Help me lift the water vat together.” Chen Li’s lip curved into a smirk, she walked over and picked up the water vat that was the weight of half a man above her head with only one arm. “Where?”

“To the other side of the yard.” Xing Yun replied. Looking at how easily Chen Li was carrying the vat of water, he added, “I’ve changed the defensive array surrounding this house into an extremely fierce one that causes massive fear. It’s most potent in the evening. This new one is extremely difficult to deal with, so when you need to pass the front yard, tell me and we’ll go out together.”

In this area, Chen Li had always respected Xing Yun’s skill, and had always knew that he was an mortal skilled in moon/sun condensing soul arrays. However, even if Xing Yun’s array was very ferocious and powerful, it could not kill people, and how could it be more powerful than the top soldiers of the demon world? Therefore, when Xing Yun was explaining how powerful the array is, Chen Li treated his words like the passing wind and paid no heed of it. Instead, she decided to change the topic and ask Xing Yun, “Why did you choose to change the array?”

Xing Yun smiled. “Is it not for you and me, so we may sleep in peace?”

As if Xing Yun’s words were a jinx, that night, the lanterns around the house suddenly extinguished. Around the hospital suddenly sounded chanting. Xing Yun in his bedroom with a quilt over his ears sighed. “Hahh, who knew that he would have such clumsy plans. It seems like I really have overestimated that Crown Prince.” He stopped talking. The continuous chattering had suddenly gotten broken by a crisp voice. Hearing that, Xing Yun immediately stood up, tugging on the edge of the bed to steady himself and walked hurriedly into the hall.

Recently after becoming regaining her human form, Chen Li had been sleeping in the hall on a bench as a temporary bed. Living so close to him, every night he is able to see Chen Li stand up, drink water, before staring at him and continuing to sleep. It was a habit of vigilance that she had gotten naturally after years of the battle field, but it was also to let Xing Yun sleep rest assured.

So when today he saw that Chen Li was not lying on the bench, his heart had a bad feeling in it and he hurriedly went the front courtyard to take a look. In the front yard, stood 5 men who have fallen within the array. With addition to the 3 black robed men, there were actually 2 dressed in priest's robes who have all fainted, white faced. Their breaths were weak as they laid on the ground shivering, and within Xing Yun's courtyard, there was only one figure left standing. It was a girl, a girl called Chen Li who seemed like she would never bend her knees or bow her spine, but was also whose face currently held helplessness and despair.

With her current expression, Chen Li no longer looked like an aloof god but rather someone normal, someone that can indeed experience pain. Xing Yun unexpectedly did not try to control his panicked heart, instead daring to step directly into the courtyard, inside the fearsome array.

In this moment, he saw Chen Li's hands that were clenching tightly loosened as she spat out a mouthful of blood, her figure slowly collapsing to the floor. Xing Yun's eyes closed as he took a deep breath and continued to move forward. Xing Yun reopened his eyes, only to find that the scene from earlier was alike a dream. Standing within the formation was still Chen Li, her hands still clenched tightly by her side. The only difference now was that 2

bloody streaks marred over her face near her eyes.

Chen Li had no way of knowing about what Xing Yun was doing outside. Her demon world was in ruins, huge floods of red, glowing hot lava swallowing up the people in the kingdom of the Demonic Realm.. . Brave soldiers had reached out their hands to her for help, yet she was bound by some force, unable to lift a finger and save them. The once lofty castle had been reduced to dust, and she felt worried, unsure of the Demon Emperor's life or death. She turned around suddenly, and saw that the Demon Emperor wearing black robes were restraining her arms. His voice and stature were cold. "This place should not exist." Her mind went blank. Before she could open her mouth, suddenly he was before her, mouth open, savagely tearing off flesh with his teeth wanting to eat her alive!

No.....

"Chen Li" The calling seemed to bring up light, yet sounded very faint. However, it was as if time froze, the world around her stopping. "Wake up."

Who's calling her name.....

Her eyes ached with pain, opening up to see an indescribably familiar face intrude onto her vision. "The flaming kingdom was fake, it's all right."

The bloody scenes gradually faded from her vision, her hands no longer bound. Chen Li slowly watched her surroundings become more and more real. The courtyard was back, the chattering noises

rehearing once again. Xing Yun was in front of her, his hand gently unfurling her painful eyelids. “Breathe.” His tone and manner was heavy, as if he had failed once again. “Wake up.”

Xing Yun blew gently on her eyelids in an effort of wake her up. Chen Li tolerated it, but Xing Yun was worried when he saw that she had still yet to awaken. He forcefully opened her eyes, took a deep breath, and was about to blow hard when Chen Li turned her head to escape. “Stop blowing.” Her hands rubbed at her dry eyes, “I’ll become blind!”

Xing Yun got up. “As a matter of fact, it would make the illusion fade faster!” He grabbed Chen Li’s hand and tugged it, walking out. “Anyways, it’s better to leave this array first.”

Being dragged by Xing Yun, her sight landed on his hand covered by her blood stains. She felt startled-That’s right, this array is so powerful.... She looked at the Xing Yun’s back absentmindedly and asked, “The Fearsome array, is it because you are it’s maker, which is why it doesn’t harm you?”

“This is but a mere stone array, how could it recognize people?” Xing Yun’s voice was faint. “But if the heart has nothing to fear, how could this array do anything?”

Nothing to fear.... Chen Li fell silent. A heart that has nothing to fear in this world, Xing Yun to say this, really is too arrogant. However.... Chen Li’s eyes moved, gaze falling to her hand in his. This man is also too indescribable, but he can also make one feel at ease so easily.

Xing Yun, without a word, led Chen Li back into the hall. He did not mention that, for a split second, he had saw the scene Chen Li had experienced.

“Those people, what should we do with them?” She pointed at the collapsed men lying inside the array.

“You can go kick them out in the morning.”

“What about the ones outside?”

Xing Yun pondered, then suddenly the chanting outside fell to a stop. “A group of trash!” A cold, young voice shouted from the outside. He ordered. “Fire the arrows!” Following his voice, a flaming arrow shot into the house, landing on the wooden roof of the house causing it to burst into flames. As if the young man had pushed a button, countless other arrows fired from outside the house onto the roof.

Chen Li frowned. “Their own men are still inside, yet they still dare to burn the house down!?”

Xing Yun had no time to reply, he turned his head to see another fire behind them. The wooden frame the grapevines were growing on had caught on fire. The fearsome atmosphere emitted by the array were continuously being weakened. Every object in the courtyard was part of the array, and were all reliant upon each other. If one part got damaged, the array as a whole would be heavily affected by the loss. Xing Yun naturally knew of these

circumstances, yet he seemed as if he didn't care, on the contrary even letting out a laugh. "After so many years, it seems like I've overestimated one's kindness."

His small courtyard is part of a much bigger neighborhood. Both to his left and right are attached to other houses, so if his home is burned to ashes, it'll cause disaster to not only him but also others. Originally, he believed that the Crown Prince would only harm him, but he never thought that nobility would treat others so ruthlessly!

"Hahh...I was reckless and harmed others as a result of my actions."

Chen Li glanced at him, "You feel guilty?"

He didn't reply, but the curve on his lips was bitter. Chen Li moved her eyes forward and wiped the blood stains off her face. She took 2 steps forward. "Today will be the last time I help you. After this, if the courtyard is burnt down, then seek refuge at Prince Rui. Then I will leave in separate ways."

This was the first time that Chen Li had told him that she was leaving verbally. Xing Yun was surprised, but he could only watch as she waved her hand, making a silver long spear rotate in her palm. With a flash, a cold, silver spear abruptly landed in her hand, red tassels waving at the end. Just a look seemed like it could cut one in two, the tassels looking like flames. With a twirl in her hands, the edge of the weapon was sharp with killing intent.

Forcefully with a slam of her feet, she jumped on the roof and straight up into the air. The silver long spear in her hands drew 4 sharp strokes. With a shout, they solidified into a character that pushed down on the courtyard. Instantaneously, the walls of Xing Yun's home exploded, the impact causing the surrounding houses to be moved by 20 feet making everywhere else empty. Without any strong winds, the fire could not spread, limiting the amount of damage.

Chen Li's figure flashed and fell inside the barrier. This time, now that the wall is out of the way, Chen Li could clearly see the attackers. There were dozens of guards, crossbow in hand trembling far away. The only one who still dared to face her was a young man outside the crowd, eyes coldly staring at her.

Chen Li unceremoniously kicked out the 5 collapsed men from the front courtyard, into the huddled up guards and said slowly, “Today, this king does not wish to see blood.”

# Chapter 11:

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The youth's eyes narrowed, about to open his mouth to speak. Suddenly, the imperial body guard moved and blocked him with his body, "Sir, be careful. This miscreant isn't easy to deal with."

However, the Crown Prince still didn't calm down, beckoning his aide, Fu Sheng, to him. Hearing what the Crown Prince had said, he sneered. "Right now, there are 7 princes, and all of them have the capability to inherit the throne. You punk, how can you be a king?"

Chen Li laughed, but her smile was cold. "You want to rule this era? You are too reckless ." Brandishing her spear, she waved it once and only a gleam of silver could be seen before everybody felt their belts loosening. A loud clang of a sword sounded as one dropped to the ground, and with the clang, also sounded everybody's belts and underpants falling. Everybody rushed in panic, desperately pulling up their pants.

Chen Li's lips hooked up into a smile, but before it could spread, a pair of warm hands covered her eyes. Behind her, Xing Yun sighed, "Don't look; Too dirty."

For a moment, Chen Li was so shocked by the warm hand covering her eyes that she had even forgotten to scold him to let go. Not caring that she had just turned several men naked, Xing Yun still had always looked at her as a girl under his care.

As a real woman.....

When everybody realised what happened, they all picked up their swords hurriedly, hobbling back awkwardly whilst holding up their pants. However, Fu Sheng's belt seemed to be a bit different as he had no hint of embarrassment on his face but instead an expression of pondering. His eyes stared at Chen Li for a moment, before ultimately deciding not to say a thing and went with the others. Now, there was only Chen Li and Xing Yun, 2 inside the flames and charcoaled remains of the house.

Chen Li put away her silver spear, but did not touch Xing Yun's hand. Her eyelashes brushed against his palm as she said. "Let's go. I'll send you to Prince Rui's residence."

Then it's time to leave.

"Ok." Xing Yun agreed, his tone a little high. He let go of Chen Li and watched the burning flames. "Wait a bit."

Chen Li turned her head to the side to look at Xing Yun. The raging fire was reflected in his pupils, his lips had a rare frown on it. She suddenly remembered what Xing Yun said to Rui Wang yesterday. He said that he wanted to stay in his small courtyard because it was his home, but now it was being destroyed, swallowed up in the raging flames. His mood, how could it be good?

Chen Li's fists tightened. If she could, she would've definitely made the Crown Prince pay. But if she were to use more of her powers, then in but a few days, the pursuers would've definitely

come to kill her. She cannot continue to stay here. Chen Li gazed into the fire, slowly burning the courtyard to ashes. She knows that her time here has come to an end, but, her heart has never felt so reluctant to leave. In the end, what to do.....

“I don’t know how long it’ll burn.” In Chen Li’s somber silence, Xing Yun suddenly muttered to himself. “This way, I can’t know if the fish in the pond is still edible, raising so many, what a waste.”

“Y-You... You were actually just thinking about that?!?”

“Otherwise, what else would I be thinking?”

Chen Li took a deep breath and grabbed Xing Yun by his collar and moved.

The garden in Prince Rui’s palace was silent. Suddenly, there was a flash of silver light, and 2 figures abruptly appeared in the garden. Xing Yun walked as he glanced at the moonlight above them and sighed. “Moving thousands of miles with magic really is far move convenient, but why did you have to choose this inhabited garden?”

“Do you think I want to come here?” Chen Li shot back. “This is because I cannot locate Prince Rui’s bedroom.”

Xing Yun smiled. “It’s still your job to find him.” He moved forward to step out of the small garden, but Chen Li grabbed his wrist. “Don’t you see the strange thing here?!”

“What’s strange?” His ears couldn’t hear anything but the chirping of insects, and his eyes could only see the shadows of the trees against the moonlight. It looked no different from any other night. Chen Li waved her hands and caught something, something tiny. “During the day, I didn’t even see it. Why would Prince Rui want to raise so many unformed demon spirits?”

Xing Yun raised his eyebrow, releasing his wrist while Chen Li wasn’t paying attention. He walked out of the pavilion, and in the silence, he spread out his arms. Walking 2 steps forward, he turned to Chen Li and confidently said, “There is no malice. I cannot see the so called demon spirit, but I can determine the atmosphere. Chen Li, you worry too much.”

However, it wasn’t that Chen Li was worrying too much, but rather, because Xing Yun could not see what was happening. Here, the power of heaven and earth was overwhelming in balls of light, resembling clouds of fireflies within a beautiful, midsummer night. In the moonlit garden, it illuminated every corner. He did not know that, when he walked forward and spread open his arms, he was like a mortal so magnificent, to even be able to receive the admirations of the gods themselves as he embraced the dazzling light. It was so bright that Chen Li even had to squint her eyes, countless thoughts running in her head.

This man, who had awoken her from the nightmare. This man, who opened his umbrella to protect her from the drizzling rain. This man, who rested as pockets of sun fell on him through the grapevines. One who could make her feel so at ease, this kind of man.....

“Come.” 2 steps away, Xing Yun held out his hand. “If you are afraid, I’ll hold you.”

He to her, he really sees her as a woman.... She cannot look, cannot look.

Chen Li grabbed his palm forcefully and pulled him, making him stagger 2 steps forward. Before he could recover, Chen Li roughly hit him and pulled his robe. Xing Yun had an almost dazed look. “Why did you?”

“Did you forget who was standing in front of you?”

Xing Yun froze for a long time before letting out a helpless smile. “Yes, mighty Chen Li. I didn’t mean to look down on you.....”

“You listen well, I want to tell you something.” Chen Li didn’t bother listening to Xing Yun, just staring at him sternly. “I’m about to fall for you.”

The crickets chirp. Chen Li’s words were the only things spoken in the silence, sticking in Xing Yun’s ears. After a while, he simply grinned. “Ok, got it, let’s go!”

He.... Was he just having fun with her? Such a perfunctory answer, so perfunctory, he probably didn’t even have time to even consider the matter, ah! And that smile! Why would he be smiling, ai! Even more ridiculous, was that he was completely complacent

and just disregarded her words!

The hand that's roughly pinning Xing Yun's robe shook with fury. But before she could explode with anger, her nose twitched, a faint smell floating in the air. Instantly, her body no longer held the feeling of anger, but rather, was taut and alert.

Magic particles. It's very light, but definitely cannot be taken lightly. Chen Li released Xing Yun's robes from her grasp and turned to look at the sky. The night sky was filled with little demon spirits, hindering her vision. She could only tell that the smell vaguely came from the south east. But when she tried to pinpoint it again, the magical particles was nowhere to be seen.

Chen Li's eyebrows knitted slightly, the magic particles... She could tell that they were different from the demon realm's, but she couldn't recognize it.

As she was pondering, the atmosphere changed. The originally bright young demon spirits that were crowding around Xing Yun, had all frozen in the air, dead still. Chen Li got a bad feeling and hurriedly hauled Xing Yun behind her as her whole body spilled out waves of power. With a loud echo, all the surrounding spirits were pushed away only to see the group just float into the sky aimlessly. Slowly, the demon spirits began to tremble violently. One by one, they all gradually turned into a blood red color from the inside out.

“What happened?” Xing Yun asked, slightly surprising Chen Li. It seemed that he too has sensed the change.

Chen Li just shook her head. “ To put it simply, it isn’t a good thing. We need to leave this garden and find Prince Rui.” If Prince Rui were to know of this, then Xing Yun really would have no place to stay.

Chen Li barely finished her sentence before a horrifying scream of a woman sounded throughout the night sky. The cry was mournful, filled with countless resentment and hate. The demon spirits in the air, too, seemed to be affected by the screaming. Their trembling bodies intensified, and some of them even started letting out small crying noises similar to a child’s. The sounds echoed within the dark night.

Xing Yun’s brows wrinkled slightly. “Let’s get out of here.”

Even he has heard the noise? Then..... Chen Li waved a hand, magical power sweeping forward. It cut straight through the demon spirits, sweeping a way out of the garden. She dragged Xing Yun with her as she walked out of the garden, conveniently hearing Prince Rui’s men as they shouted one after another into the air.

“M-M-Monsters!!”

“Help me!!”

When she stepped out of the fenced garden with Xing Yun in tow, Chen Li felt shocked by her surroundings. Prince Rui’s home was filled with young demon spirits, all the color of blood, everywhere.

They were all crying and acting similar to a new born baby, blood red tears streaming down their faces. Some crawled on the floor, others on the walls, and many of them were even clutching to people as they all kept sobbing. However, their bloody tears were equivalent to dangerous acids, causing burns to mar the skin. The servants were all in a panic, running chaotically through the residence. Torches lit up the night, but whenever the tears made contact with the torch, fiery light exploded, so dazzling that even Chen Li had to close her eyes. It was similar to the nightmarish illusion from earlier, scaring Chen Li through the depths of her heart.

Xing Yun knitted his brows, Chen Li muttered. “A demon spirit has bitten back against it’s owner. He couldn’t raise the demon spirit, I need to quickly find Prince Rui.”

A Demon Spirit is very difficult to obtain. Even out of tens of millions of young demon spirits, only one talented spirit can achieve a conscious human body and become a complete demon spirit. Others, even if you were to hand raise it day and night, year by year, the most it would be able to achieve is a soulless vessel, unable to cultivate or learn. Within Rui Wang’s palace, there is only one that is able to cultivate into a human body, the young lotus miss. However, on the day of the encounter, her heart did not hold any resentment. But now, it’s so high that she even tried to kill the prince! How could this.....

Chen Li suddenly recalled how the magical particles suddenly disappeared, and her expression turned grave.

“Chen Li.” Xing Yun suddenly called out to her and pointed

southeast to a small road. “Prince Rui’s residence is right over there.”

Chen Li looked up at the southeast corner. However, instead of seeing a house, the only thing that was visible was a crowd of glowing red spirits.

# Chapter 12:

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Chen Li frowned, “If you were just waiting for her, than why would you house a demon spirit? Now, it even holds so much resentment towards you, how come?”

Prince Rui kept silent for a while before finally speaking hoarsely, “When I brought her back here, the only thing I could think of was her dead body. It gave me indescribable sorrow, because I know, I know that Ye Shi, such a woman, couldn’t have died so easily. I studied the path of immortals and finally found 2 ways to awaken her.....”

Before he could even finish, Chen Li already knew of the 2 ways he had found. To either continue to extend her life with a Fate Changing array, and to raise a complete demon spirit to feed to her. One life for another life.

Chen Li sneered, ruthlessly exposing him. “You did not protect your wife properly, and had let her die for your sake 3 years ago. Now, you can’t accept the reality, and delusionally wishes for her to live again. Therefore, you sought for an immoral method and went against the flow of heaven to raise a demon spirit hand by hand, only to trade hers for your wife’s. Really such a cheap guy, huh?”

The prince kept silent. “That is what I’ll do, if it wakes Ye Shi up.”

Chen Li’s eyes narrowed, if it wasn’t for the fact that Xing Yun

would have nowhere else to go, then she really would've preferred to just go, leaving this selfish prince to just deal with it all himself. "Now why did the young lotus miss turn out to be like this?"

Prince Rui shook his head, "I come here every night to visit my wife, but somehow, Small Lotus had actually broken in here for some reason. She didn't understand these matters, so her heart gave birth to resentment.

Of course she'll resent you! Chen Li spoke, "A demon spirits temper is very stubborn. She regards you as someone very dear to her, but you would actually kill her for another life.... If she didn't hate you, then something would've been wrong with her brain! Not to mention..." Chen Li turned her gaze to the woman on the bed. She felt that no more words were needed. The little lotus miss had always loved Prince Rui, but it turned out that all along, the only one the Prince cared for was his princess.

Just then, the ground shook once more. Chen Li still did not know how well the outer pavilions were faring. Chen Li pondered before speaking to Prince Rui. "I don't care about what happens before, but right now, we are in this mess because of you. Since you can't make up your mind, I'll just do this how I want to. When I find the lotus miss, if I cannot get rid of her power, I will kill her."

Prince Rui's expression was cold as he observed Chen Li, listen to her clear voice. "Keep in mind, that if the young lotus miss dies, and people connect it with your dead wife, that it was I, Chen Li, who killed her and no one else was involved."

Xing Yun suddenly turned to observe Chen Li, their eyes meeting. Chen Li quickly turned her head, her vision leaving Xing Yun.

Chen Li involuntarily grabbed Xing Yun's wrist and spoke, "Right now the tunnel is blocked. The baby blood demon spirits cannot come in, but air is limited and can't sustain us for long. Around this time outside, it should be a mass of panic. I can bring Xing Yun and myself to go back in the throne room to avoid the baby demon spirits. Let the common people leave the palace, then we can search for the young lotus miss."

Xing Yun didn't know what to say, and just nodded and agreed.

Where, in this moment, Chen Li was still mindful of Xing Yun, her mouth constantly muttering incantations as their landscape changed. The horizon had already become translucent and the sun was about to rise, bringing light and weakening the bloody demon spirits severely. But even so, the Rui Palace was in a disastrous state from the raging last night. The bodies of the slaves, maidservants, and guards, were all crumpled up under the baby demon spirits, clothes and flesh burned off by the acidic tears. A very gruesome and nauseous sight.

But even if Chen Li saw a corpse that looked disturbingly similar to a butchered pig, she would just summon her silver longspear and brandish it. Sending out waves of killing intent, she simply swept it out of her way as she spoke to Xing Yun. "Take advantage of the sun to deal with the little bloody demon spirits with your array. If they are contained first, the people of Rui Palace can escape safely."

Xing Yun froze up for a moment before forcing out a bitter smile. “Do you really think arrays are so easy to make? I don’t even know Rui Palace’s layout, how could I make one?”

Chen Li felt surprised for a moment. “If that’s the case, then why didn’t you say so in the cavern? If deal with the young lotus miss right now, you would have no use.”

Xing Yun coughed twice, “I didn’t hear you say anything earlier.”

You didn’t hear at all, what’s wrong with your head, ah! Chen Li struggled to suppress her anger, in such a busy time, he added more chaos. If this was in her military barracks, then she would’ve had people to pull and whip this stupid soldier.

She had originally planned to have just dropped Xing Yun off at the Rui Palace then go her separate ways, but in the end, how long has this “simple” situation been?!? She only stays here for a moment, yet so much danger has occurred! If her pursuers come and add to the mix as well, this situation would not be solved with a few mere houses collapsing.

As Chen Li continued to think about how to end this situation, the tip of her nose caught a whiff of more magical qi, a familiar one causing her heart to tighten. She looked towards the horizon, but the smell as closer now. However, she was relieved. It was only one person, and what’s more, is that she is very familiar with this pers-

“Mo Fang!”

“Mo Fang!” She shouted towards the sky, a black ball of magical qi suddenly falling near her. Chen Li rushed to it, the thick, black qi dispersing to reveal Mo Fang, dressed in thin, black robes. He fell onto one knee, bowing his hand respectfully into a salute.

“King!”

Ever since Mo Fang had devised a method for her to escape to marriage, Chen Li had always felt grateful to him in her heart, even though she had been forced through inhumane treatments afterwards..... However, Mo Fang’s loyalty wasn’t weak willed. She patted his back and helped him up, but Mo Fang refused. Rather, he bent his other knee and sank into a deep kowtow. “The other day had injured the King. Mo Fang had committed a crime worth a thousand deaths.”

Chen Li grew angry, “Get up! I hate those who bow as the first thing they do!”

Xing Yun had backed up a step and was just quietly sizing up the newly arrived man kneeling on the ground. Chen Li realised that although Mo Fang was still kneeling, he was very guarded against Xing Yun. Turning to Mo Fang, she said, “Anyways, he is my subordinate.” Chen Li pondered, what to say. For Mo Fang to come and find her, a big event must have surely happened up in heaven. However, if she can’t tell Mo Fang everything-A mortal knowing of all the little demon spirits and such strong knowledge of arrays is not something that is right. His body as a mortal, yet knowing so much bears a great burden for him. If it is known that Xing Yun understands some of the Truths of heaven, then who knows which

near day lightning will strike down and kill him.

Chen Li looked around, the bloody demon spirits were left helpless by the sun, lying on the ground, unable to move. But just in case, Chen Li gave Xing Yun the red tasseled silver long spear in her hands. “Take it and go somewhere else for now. He and I have some matters to discuss. My spear contains my spiritual aura, so no bloody baby spirits should try and attack you.”

Before Xing Yun could reply, the silver longspear was already in his arms. Glancing at the floor, he could see that the demon spirits were left helpless and couldn’t move due to the sun. Xing Yun was about to deny, but suddenly Mo Fang had lifted his head and his stare pierced into Xing Yun’s. His expression was vivid, as if almost yelling, “You dare to take the King’s spear! Damn!” Xing Yun was silent for a moment before clutching the silver spear tightly to his bosom, and leisurely walked to the outside. He didn’t forget to give Mo Fang a smug smile before he left.

Mo Fang clenched his fist, but Chen Li actually smiled and helped him up. She patted his shoulder, “Young fellow, I really must thank you for injuring me that time. Otherwise, there would’ve been no way for me to escape!” Mo Fang was a whole head higher than Chen Li, so she had to look up to see his face. A glimpse of a scar was at Mo Fang’s neck, the result of his sacrifice to the red tasseled longspear. Her silver longspear contained demonic aura, preventing the scar from healing. No matter how good Mo Fang’s healing abilities were, it could never get rid of it.

Chen Li sighed. “Later, when this foolish marriage has been abolished, I will go in front of the Demon Emperor myself and make sure that you receive compensation.”

Mo Fang lowers his head. “Your subordinate doesn’t dare.” He stopped his formal speech this time and went straight to the point. “Had King used her magical powers last night? Those up in heaven had felt the waves of power, I’m afraid that if you don’t flee quickly now, it will be difficult to later.”

This, Chen Li had already known. However, there is still the current situation, if the little lotus miss kills the prince, then there is no one else whose powers rival the Crown Prince’s. Then, who can shield Xing Yun?

# Chapter 13:

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Chen Li's eyes flashed, "A water lotus!!" That was her real body! Since she still hasn't come out or hurt anyone yet, she must be hiding there! Finding out where she was, Chen Li was so excited that she was about to hurry there right that second. But when she was about to put her foot down, she suddenly stopped and turned to face Xing Yun, a glare on her face. "If I hadn't asked you, you never would've said anything!"

"How could I do that?" Xing Yun laughed lightly, "Being so clever and experienced, I had thought that you surely had already figured out the key, and didn't need me to remind you."

Chen Li glanced at him, not saying anything. However, her heart held an unexplainably strange feeling in it. It was as if, ever since they had entered the royal palace up til now, whether unintentionally or on purpose, Xing Yun had always seemed to be hindering her movements, just like.... He didn't want her to deal with this problem and leave as soon as possible.

The lake was gloomy, corpses floating not too far away. However, the same unbloomed flower that was in the lake yesterday was no longer a soft, pink color. Instead, the bud seemed to ooze out a deep, bloody red color that bled down the stem.

Chen Li picked up a pebble near her foot and gently threw it, landing on the flower bud. She raised her voice, barking, "Out!" There was no movement. Chen Li's eyes narrowed, "If that's the case, then don't blame me." In mere moments, the spear that was in her hand gathered a thick killing intent, one that was razor

sharp. She swung it down at the thick flower's stem. Xing Yun's hand abruptly grabbed her wrist, breaking off the spell. Chen Li frowned. "What?"

Xing Yun dropped her hand, his voice faint. "Nothing, just never thought that you would only ask her once before wanting to end her life. Moreover, if you look at this clearly, she is innocent. I fear that if you were to kill her now, when you look back into the past, your soul will be burdened with tremendous regret."

"So you became the buddha, suddenly so kind?" She replied, "This situation must end now. If she does not cooperate, then I will take the most direct way to finish this." Chen Li shoved Xing Yun, her demeanor ice cold. "I am not kind. In order to reach my goal, I will put my conscience locked away. Move."

When opposing the enemy, Chen Li will never be kindhearted. This is also one of the reasons why, despite being so young, been crowned the title of Azure Sky King. Slaughter with resolve, indifferent and cruel, that is something that even those older must study.

Xing Yun no longer blocked her way, standing off silently onto the side. Although he was quiet, he was actually pondering in his head. This girl named Chen Li, how many different faces did she have? It was really so interesting, making one want to see more.

"Ah!!"

In the lake, the water shook. A sad, shrill scream emerged from

the lotus, the bloody petals dying the lake red. Her face was slowly morphing into one's of a human's, if it wasn't for the expression of resentment on her face, she was every bit similar to a cute, slim lotus fairy. Unfortunately....

“Why must you help him?!?” The little lotus missus’s eyes were red as she stared at Chen Li, “Why do you need to help him!” She seemed to have lost all reason, charging at Chen Li, her figure disappearing with a flash.

For Chen Li, it was actually quite convenient. She easily seized her by her wrist before hitting her ming men acupuncture point, leaving the little lotus paralyzed. Chen Li twisted her wrist into an submission, causing her head to be pinned against the fence. With a wave of Chen Li’s hand, the spear disappeared, leaving her hand free. Under the surprised gaze of Xing Yun, Chen Li ferociously whacked the little lotus’s butt, a resounding “pa” echoing in the air. “Admit your mistakes!”

Chen Li’s hand was not light, the hit causing the little lotus’s whole body to tremble. However, how could a complete demon spirit filled with resentment be afraid of fighting, causing her to struggle ferociously, “What mistakes did I do?!? The one who made a mistake was Zhu Chengjin!” Not bothering with the little lotus’s nonsense, Chen Li kept on spanking her butt again and again. Her body twitched letting out cries until her throat was sore. Finally, the pain woke her up from the despair, causing her to gain reason once again. However, her little mouth still cursed, “I will let him die without a burial, I’ll ruin this entire royal palace!”

“Admit it”

“The heavens are heartless!”

“Admit your mistake!”

“I’m right.....not....”

“Admit mistake.” Chen Li kept on slapping her butt to the extent where she was crying and shouting, “I was wrong, I was wrong! Do not hit, I admit my mistake, boo hoo....”

“What did you do wrong?” Chen Li stopped hitting, her hand also red from acid produced by her body.

The little lotus missus’s dress had once again turned a gentle pink color, the lotus in the lake the same as yesterday. The little bloody demon spirits disappeared, reverting back into their original spiritual states. They floated around aimlessly, normal humans unable to see them.

Little lotus was lying on the fence as she cried, “I shouldn’t harm other people! I was wrong, I never should’ve harmed people!”

Chen Li released her, allowing little lotus to curl up on the bench as she cried, tears falling into the lake.

Xing Yun smiled as he gazed at the two, marveling, “Even a demon born out of resentment could be afraid of beatings! This

move, so simple, but so effective, ah!"

"It was you who had reminded me." Chen Li was still looking at the crying little lotus, "She only has a child's temperament that can only think up of fearful revenge, but lack the ruthlessness to carry it out. Even in that hidden room, she only blocked the passageway. If she wanted to, it would've been easy for her to directly kill Prince Rui." Chen Li sighed, "She had hurried home to hide when she was injured, if not for the yard of demon spirits, she would've even been afraid of us easily breaking out and getting revenge. With such a child's disposition, I would naturally only beat. However, if she really didn't come out, then I would be forced to stamp out the source of trouble."

Xing Yun struggled valiantly to hide his laughter, but ultimately failed, bursting out in chuckles and sighed, "In brief, to subdue with military force."

Chen Li waited, letting Little Lotus sob. She patted her on the shoulder, gently saying "I sympathise with you, but this has already been done, and crying is useless. If Rui Palace is a place you no longer want to stay, then walk, walk without looking back. Do not worry about him coming to kill you, I will not let him."

She slowly stopped crying and shook her head, "It's not.... Until now, I still cannot believe....." She stuttered, squatting on the ground, "To me, he was so good, was... Only to him, he could only see hope for his wife..... I was only a substitute... Not even can be considered a substitute, ah....."

Chen Li was silent, not sure how to comfort her. Xing Yun

suddenly opened his mouth to speak, “Uh, yes. You are a raw material for medicine, just looking, no error or cracks. You can be refined very well, you are quite precious.” Chen Li narrowed her eyes at him, out of his mouth didn’t even hold one cheerful sentence, ah!

“Chicken meat is also very good for nourishment and eating, so nevermind you, but even this smart spirit isn’t eaten, so let’s go before we are turned into stew!”

When you went to buy a chicken, what did you want, ah!!

## Chapter 14:

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The little lotus wiped her tears, quietly pondering. Finally, she took a deep breath and decided, “I want to see the this side of him.... If I walk away now, I will never get the chance to say goodbye. Even if in his eyes, I am nothing, ever since I’ve opened my eyes in this world, he has been my everything. He is the most important person in my life.” Recollections of memories floated through her mind, causing her eyes to redden once again with tears, “I worked hard to become become a real person, learned how to talk, studied human customs, just to gain his favour..... Just to be with him..... Not kill me, ah.....”

Chen Li sighed, squatting next to her, “Although what I’m saying is a little cruel, you must listen. That Prince Rui, raising you from birth, only to slaughter you, for him, this is the only value you have. Anything else, no matter how much you do, even if you beg him, he will be completely cold and aloof. It has no value, do you understand?” Chen Li held her face, using her thumb to wipe of her tears. “Therefore, you must quickly stand back up and walk to the future. You are such a good girl, so forget about him, this world has so much more beautiful things to explore.”

In the back, Xing Yun quietly looked at Chen Li’s squatting figure. The little lotus miss also stared at Chen Li before lowering her head, “You are carefree, but me...” She lowered her head, burying her face into her knees. She sounded unwilling as she said, “I would like to see what kind of woman she is, to make the prince go through such efforts to revive her. I want to know, between her and I, how big the distance truly is.”

Chen Li stood up, exchanging looks with Xing Yun. He spoke,

“Go take a look-You’ll have to face disappointment eventually.”

Chen Li’s mouth twitched, thinking in her mind. Why would you need to see her once again? The fact is already there. Even if little lotus is better in every aspect than the woman lying on the bed, the one Prince Rui loves is not her. That cannot be changed. But seeing little lotus being so persistent, she swallowed down her thoughts, and said instead, “Okay, okay, I’ll bring you to see her. When we go down, hide behind Xing Yun while I find an excuse to lead Prince Rui away. Then, you can stare at her as much as you like.” The woman was already dead, it’s not like little lotus can harm her.

Chen Li used a special technique, instantly teleporting them to the secret chamber. Chen Li signaled Xing Yun with her eyes to little lotus, Xing Yun quickly moving to block her with his body. Chen Li then walked inside, finding Prince Rui sitting by the bedside. His eyes were fixed on the woman whom laid on the bed. Chen Li interrupted, “The little lotus has been killed by me.”

Light, shallow, indifferent words echoed in the room. Prince Rui’s body was stiff, not turning to look his head. Chen Li continued, “All the bloody demon spirits caused by the resentment has returned to normal. I will escort you out.”

The room was silent for a long time. Finally, Prince Rui laughed bitterly, his voice sombre, “Why must I go?” He bent down, lightly kissing the woman’s icy cold forehead. “Ye Shi hasn’t awoken, so what difference does it make if Zhu Chengjin is alive or dead.”

Hiding in the dark, little lotus’s fists were clenched tightly, the

light in her eyes dimming.

“Throughout my life, I was constantly searching for power. To me, Ye Shi was just a woman. After a few years together, I had thought that she was still nothing to me. However, we both actually cared deeply about each other, seeping into our very being. For the past 3 years, I had been dreaming of her awakening every night only to be disappointed. So, I placed all of my hopes onto little lotus’s body..... But in the end, she too died.” Prince Rui smiled sadly. “When I look back, everything is empty.”

He caressed Ye Shi’s hair gently, “You may go. I’ll accompany her here. I won’t be going out.”

Chen Li was silent. This statement, it shows that one truly can die an emotional death. If this time, Prince Rui is hell bent on death, then Xing Yun.... Before she could finish her thoughts, a pink figure suddenly ran past her. Such a surprise, she startled the god Chen Li so much, she did not have enough time to catch her!

She could only watch as little lotus ran out towards Prince Rui, her palm ferociously slapping his face. Crying out like her life depended on it, she screamed at Prince Rui, “I HATE YOU!!!!”

Rui Prince Zhu Chengjin looked at her, not quite recovered from the shock. He could only see the little lotus’s figure change into a ball of silver light, leaping into Ye Shi’s cold body. The last few drops of tears flew through the air, landing on his hand. On the bed, the woman coughed weakly. Prince Rui didn’t notice, his eyes focused on Ye Shi. His eyes were bright as he stared. Eyes of hope.

Chen Li felt something cold freeze over her heart, little lotus's sacrifice for this kind of man really wasn't worth it. "Silly girl." She sighed. It felt as if her cries sounded once more next to her ears.

"Why me? Why me!?"

"For him, I practiced and studied every day to become a person!"

She was clearly just a supporting role, a side character. Why must that silly girl die for him?

"Cough..... Cough....." The woman in the bed coughed, almost choking. Prince Rui's eyes lit up, raw joy flooding through him, leaving him almost unprepared. "Ye Shi, Ye Shi....." He was constantly whispering her name, his hoarse voice sounding, "You wait, I'll get you out." Prince Rui quickly scooped her up, carrying her as he quickly walked in front of Chen Li, an anxious look on his face. "I'm sorry, I must trouble you to quickly clear up an exit."

This is the only female that would be able to make the proud price lower his head for help. Chen Li tugged Prince Rui's hand, pulling him to a stop, saying gently, "Little Lotus said that, she for you, struggled through hardships to become a real person, not for you to slaughter. Now, for you, she sacrificed herself."

Prince Rui was startled, listening to Chen Li's emotionless voice as she continued, "My own fault, I was too careless about bringing her here. I hadn't thought that you would've been able to sense her

here, knew that she was hiding behind us. Such a good play you had created, right Prince Rui? However....”

Chen Li didn't finish, but Prince Rui could guess the meaning behind it.

Little Lotus had seen through him, but had still foolishly followed her feelings for him. She loathed the scheme Prince Rui had put on, but she still couldn't escape the plot.

A truly, downright silly girl.

Prince Rui was silent. Chen Li turned to Xing Yun and spoke, “I'll go deliver them outside, you stay still and wait for me here.”

Xing Yun hid his hands behind him, his face heavy with dark circle, and gently nodded. However, the preoccupied Chen Li couldn't see the differences in the dark, only grasping Prince Rui's wrist. With a flash, the two were standing on the bridge near Prince Rui's residence.

The palace was silent, lacking any signs of life. Corpses of bodyguards floated on the surface of the lake. Prince Rui's brows wrinkled, about to ask a question, but suddenly Chen Li disappeared with a flash, not saying a word of goodbye. The lady in his arms coughed twice, causing a sense of urgency to well up in his heart as he rushed down the bridge. As he did, his eyes were

involuntarily attracted the lotus in the lake.

Withered leaves, bent stalks, and a dry flowerhead told that it was dead. In this moment, a picture inexplicably leaped into Prince Rui's head. A pink clothed girl leaped into his arms, smiling. Not yet able to speak, she instead rubbed her cheeks against his chest to express her love. She stuttered adorably, "Zhu..... Zhu, lotus likes. Z-Zhu likes. Zhu l-likes. Little lotus?"

He remembers at that time, saying without hesitation, "Like." He easily deceived her, yet the deceived little girl just let out a bright, happy smile. So beautiful, it could almost light up his soul, letting him see all the darkness inside him.

A Liar! He was such a big liar! Since today, this world will never have another Little Lotus.... At this moment, Zhu Chengjin actually hated himself, hated how despicable he really was.

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In the underground chamber, Chen Li slapped her hand angrily on the stone bed. The soul tying array on the bed cracked, dust flying up into the air causing Xing Yun to cover his mouth, coughing lightly. "Don't vent your anger onto the stone bed." Xing Yun sighed, "It was I chose to bring little lotus down here. If you want to vent your anger, just talk to me."

Chen Li closed her eyes, her angry mood gradually calming down. "If I were her, then I must kill that man. Make him pay for my life with his." Her demeanor was cold and gloomy, "To

sacrifice herself for that kind of man's happiness, he is unworthy."

"It's not right for outsiders to have the final say." Xing Yun spoke, "As long as she was willing, no one is qualified to judge this matter is right or wrong."

Chen Li felt an urge in her heart. "That guy didn't know who he has killed."

"How could he not have known?" Xing Yun smiled faintly, "He knows, just for him, Little Lotus's feelings simply didn't matter."

Chen Li was silent, anger stirring in her heart. "Such a disgusting man, other woman always on his mind!" Suddenly she thought of her own situation, Fu Rong's own disgusting nature. So annoying! "If I ever fancy a man, then I will never care about anyone else or let people interfere with us! To me, I will only accept the whole thing, if only a part, I won't care! If he dares to scheme with me, then I'll break his bones!"

Her speech was loud and clear, causing Xing Yun to turn, shocked. Blinking to refocus, he spoke, "Nice courage."

Chen Li regained her composure and scratched her head awkwardly, "Of course, the day before yesterday, I took a fancy to you. However, we won't be together in the future, so you are still free to marry." Listening to her words, in spite of holding it in, Xing Yun burst into laughter. Before he could finish, Chen Li waved her hand, "I don't have any more time to stay here. Come, I'll send you out."

“Okay.” Xing Yun agreed, extending his hand. But before Chen Li’s hand could grab him, he shrank his arm back. He coughed hoarsely, his waist bending towards the floor. Chen Li was startled, not yet recovered from her surprise when Xing Yun started vomiting out clouds of black blood. Chen Li was worried for his life, “How?”

Xing Yun opened his mouth, wanting to reply, but black blood just repeatedly gushed out instead. Chen Li rushed to hold him up, grabbing his hand to get his pulse. However, on his hand was a charred, thumb-sized black hole. Chen Li looked closer, realizing that it wasn’t newly made, but was caused by the baby demon spirit’s tears.

“When did you receive the wound?!” Chen Li was furious, “Why didn’t you tell me earlier!”

The surrounding flesh of the wound was already infected, the black flesh slowly expanding. The bloody spirits were a result of resentful magical qi being released into the air. Therefore, their bodily fluids were not only putrid, rotting, but also very, very toxic. Xing Yun was already very weak, meaning the infection was many times more serious than it would be for the common person. Yet for so long, he didn’t say a thing....

Chen Li really wanted to hit him, but also feared that if she lost control of her strength, would kill him in one shot. Therefore, she could only clench her teeth and force back her anger. She hauled him onto her back, angrily shouting, “You! When you spat out that toxic black blood at me, did you want to kill me!”

Xing Yun's lips were still black, blood flowing down from the corner of his lips. However, he still laughed faintly, "I tried to hold it back, but wasn't able to so I had to."

Chen Li grinded her teeth, "A sickly person shouldn't try to flaunt himself as a hero. You shut up!"

"Yeah...." Xing Yun sighed quietly, "When you were in your troubles, I have never once turned my back on you."

# Chapter 15:

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Chen Li didn't dare to wander around the palace aimlessly, in fear of the infection spreading even faster. She brought Xing Yun to one of the many empty rooms, not even a shadow of another person to be found. Chen Li gritted her teeth, and pushed her palm into Xing Yun's back. "This can only temporarily relieve your pain. I don't have the skill to treat you, and the common doctors here aren't able to treat it either. As such, I can only go past the capital, into the suburbs to request the local land god to come. It will take quite long, so you must wait here patiently. Don't move from here."

Xing Yun smiled helplessly, "How can I? Even I want to move, but I cannot."

Chen Li stood up, silent for a long time, at him. Finally, she spoke in a low voice, "Later..... I might not come back, but you can still rest assured that the local land god will heal you." She turned to leave. She was reluctant to part, but the time had come. Even so, her voice was still somewhat gloomy, "The land god's river is far, if we cannot meet each other again.... You must take care of yourself."

"For the past days, thank you for taking care of me"

In the empty room, Xing Yun was speechless for a while before suddenly bursting into laughter despite struggling not to. "Thanking me in such a gloomy voice, you really are unwilling to leave, ah....." Wind blew through the open windows, Xing Yun lifted his head. His hair scattering from the wind, lips moving into

a gentle sigh, “In the end..... She never looked at me clearly.”

Always making one feel frustrated.

~~~

Chen Li thought, Mo Fang had said that he can delay them for ¼ a day, but against the elites of the Demonic Realm, even if he tried his best, he still may not be able to drag it out for so long. Chen Li no longer dared to stay in the Rui Palace. If the pursuing troops were to come here and search, it would only bring disaster to the innocent Xing Yun. Her current magical powers are 70-80% recovered. Against the Demonic Realm’s elites, although she is not completely confident of escaping, she could at least wrestle them down here in the open wilderness, giving her some hope in getting away.

Chen Li moved extremely fast, only a flash could be seen before she stood on the outskirts of the wild mountains. She stood on one, looking afar. It was a sunny day, sweeping scenery stretching in the distance. The city capital could barely be seen. Her robe swished as she turned and marched into the wooded mountains, walking to the place that contained the most magical energy. Magical power condensed in the hollow of her palm, slamming into the earth. She lowered her head, solemnly shouting, “Come!”

Light from her palm overflowed, pouring into the floor. With her as the centre, the light rapidly spread to the surrounding earth, mountain rock trembling as the birds and animals all fled in terror. The winds blew up Chen Li’s robe. When it settled down, shadows of figures appeared in the silent woods. As they showed

up, the intense magical light surrounding Chen Li dispersed into the air. She stood up, turning in a circle to examine the newcomers. There were the elderly, with white dotting their beards. Young girls, and bizarre looking youths also stood. They were all looking at Chen Li with shock.

Chen Li knew that the sudden wave of magical qi had frightened the land spirits, but there was no time to explain. If they are afraid of her, than that is also good. She made her face even colder, speaking darkly, “Who can treat a human illness?”

The land spirits looked at each other questioningly, a young youth with an antler on his head stepped forward hesitantly, trembling with each step, “i-I.....” Chen Li’s heavy stare fell onto him, causing the boy to squat down with his hands covering his hand, screaming, “Miss, Don’t kill me!”

Chen Li’s mouth twitched, trying to suppress the despicable expression off her face. Finally, she settled into a cold frown, “In Rui Palace within the Capital City lies a human in the west building. He is called Xing Yun, and was injured by a resentful baby demon spirit. The toxin is killing him, so I have come here to seek one that is capable of treating him.”

After explaining her purpose and problem, the land spirits all breathed out a sigh of relief. The old white bearded man spoke, “If it’s like this, then Hulu, quickly go and assist her.”

Hulu trembled, looking at Chen Li in fear. Chen Li suddenly interrupted, “I will not be going, but you must go and treat him.” She stared at Hulu, eyes cold and gloomy. “How long will the

treatment for a demon infected wound take.”

“r-R..... Roughly half an hour....”

“Good.” Chen Li waved her hand, the gleaming Hongying Spear landing directly into the rock in front of him, piercing more than 3 inches though. Hulu cried with alarm, cold sweat running down his forehead like rain. He could only listen to Chen Li’s threatening voice, “If, after half an hour, you still haven’t come back... Then with this silver longspear, I will slaughter everyone here in a surrounding 300 mile radius.”

The malevolent aura leaked from the spear, causing fear to naturally well up in the land spirits. Their faces all ashened, and Hulu fell onto the floor, his legs too soft to stand.

Chen Li turned her gaze to the sky, “Starting now.”

The white bearded aged man hurried forward, angrily pinching Hulu’s antlers, “Still haven’t gone yet? Hurry and go!” Mulu quickly regained his composure, a deep hole appearing in the ground as he sped to the capital, escaping. Shrinking back, all the other land spirits gradually merged into a single group, watching her warily. Chen Li didn’t care and just ignored them, knitting her eyes as she stared into the sky. The clouds in the general direction of the capital slowly darkened.

If she was correct, and the pursuers from the Demonic Realm were harnessing the power of the clouds..... So many pursuers had come?! The Demon Emperor really is hell bent on bringing her

back.

Chen Li clenched her fists, she despised Fu Rong, despised the Heavenly Emperor for granting this method, despised the idea of using a marriage between the Heavenly Realm and Demonic Realm. Did they really think a marriage would be able to bind the 2 realms together? What a joke!

If Heaven could allow the people of the Demonic Realm to live in the same area as the heavenly immortals peacefully, then how would they still use methods like marriage to solidify their so called “friendship”.....

As Chen Li was pondering, dark clouds were already forming above the Capital City. Her brows furrowed, fearful of her pursuers harming Xing Yun. But after thinking it over, she felt that she was far too overly worried. She was rarely by Xing Yun's side, so how many people would have known about their relationship? She had just used her magical powers here to summon the land spirits, so surely her pursuers would have detected it. It shouldn't be long until they depart from there to here, so Chen Li no longer needed to worry.

Hulu from her point of view was just a honest little spirit, so she didn't need to worry about any hidden plots going on.

She should completely wash her hands of Xing Yun and continue to escape her own marriage.

Watching the flow of time, Chen Li started to feel something was a little bit off. Her pursuers that were hiding in the darkened clouds had come to a halt where Xing Yun was, in the Capital City. They still haven't came to her location, but there was no way they couldn't perceive her power. So why.....

As Chen Li pondered over this dilemma, the ground suddenly shook. An honest, pure looking face with antlers above his head emerged. His clothes were ripped and ragged, his face in tears as mucus fell to the ground. He turned his head to face Chen Li, sobbing as he cupped one fist and fell onto his knees to bow, "Don't kill me, please don't kill everybody here! It's not that I didn't try and go save him, I went all out! However, I was blocked! Those black robed men really were quite vicious! Boo hoo, they had even beaten me."

When Chen Li heard this, her face changed. "Talk clearly!"

Hulu on the ground wiped his tears, but he still sobbed, "I went..... Had found a person called Xing Yun. He was kind. He knew I was forced to save him, but he still laughed and smiled at me, telling me thank you. I genuinely wanted to save him then. b- But suddenly, men in black armor came. Originally, nothing was wrong, but then a red coated man came up to me and asked me a question: Why did I go inside the city to save people? I honestly answered, in the end..... They wouldn't let me save him, wuuuu, they even beat me, boo hoo..... They told me to pass on the message, you go back with them or he dies....."

Chen Li clenched her teeth-If her guess was correct, then the pursuers sent by the Demon Emperor, a black robed man with a

red robed man, who else could they be but the Demon Emperor's right and left hands, Qing Yan and Chi Rong? He's even taken out the trump cards, it seems that this time, the Demon Emperor is truly angry.

Chen Li felt very hesitant. Against those 2 men, even if it was her, it wasn't certain that she could escape unscathed. Not to mention the fact that she wasn't even fully healed, but Xing Yun....

"That guy, how is Xing Yun?"

Hulu wiped his nose, "Dying, ah. I checked his pulse, his body has always been weak, and had fallen into disorder. He must have been exhausted for the past few days to achieve this kind of result. The resentful demon spirit's toxin had already started invading the viscera of the body. If he is not saved, he will soon die."

TL note: Viscera is the internal organs in the main cavities of the body

Chen Li looked at the distant capital. Her arm extended, the Hongying Spear flying back into her hands, which tightly gripped around the shaft. Chen Li moved, the figure disappearing into the sky with a blast. After her leave, the land spirits gathered together to discuss in murmurs.

"Where could that fellow have come from? The malevolent aura is so strong!"

“Looks like she’s one of the Demonic Realm people! Overbearing, harsh, unreasonable.... Hulu, you haven’t suffered an injury, have you?”

“Huh, oh, yeah, no worries.” Hulu continued to wipe off his tears, suddenly, someone behind him pointed at his elbow, “Ah, What is this?!”

“What?” Hulu struggled to twist around so he could see, but his body held too much muscle, just perfectly locating it at a blind spot in the corner of his elbow where he couldn’t see. Other land spirits started gathering, a strange look on their faces, “Leave? What person wrote the character leave, here in blood?”

Hulu awkwardly scratched his head, “Ah..... It was that person, Xing Yun. He wanted that woman to leave, but she probably didn’t see it.”

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## In the Rui Palace

Xing Yun calmly sat on the bed, making the red robed man Chi Rong, curious about him. His face bore no anger, but was instead smiling as he looked at him, “Do you not worry about your own situation? Judging from your appearance, you will soon die.”

“Worry, can I live a long life if I have it?” Xing Yun laughed, “If so, then I’ll worry.”

Hearing this, the Chi Rong laughed loudly, “He is worthy of having touched the Azure Sky King’s fancy ah, he really has meaning.” He turned his head to beckon the man by the entrance, “Oh yeah, Chi Rong, you should also come to chat with him. Chen girl has fallen for a man, really rare, ah!

The man by the entrance was indifferent, turning his head to Chi Rong. “If so, then if you molest him again, then beware of revenge in the future.”

“Ah, that’s true.” Chi Rong’s finger that was about to stroke Xing Yun’s nose was immediately pulled back as he stood obediently off to the side. “I really don’t want to provoke such a troublesome fellow.”

Xing Yun was silent, just staring at Chi Rong with a faint smile.

Suddenly, the atmosphere changed. Qing Yan’s hair blew in the wind, his face turning solemn as he turned his gaze onto the sky.

Chi Rong's eyes held a streak of gold in it as he yelled loudly, "The Demon Emperor has ordered, if Azure Sky King, Chen Li refuses to return to the palace, her hands and feet will be chopped off, bones disintegrated, and tied for marriage..... I have always been soft-hearted and cannot bear to hurt my own friend, therefore I will be forced to kill this man....."

Chi Rong had hardly finished speaking, when the roof made a clear sound of damage, echoing in the room. The Hongying Spear dug into the ground right next to Chi Rong's feet, the malevolent aura forcing him a step back. The sound was followed by a louder boom. Tiles fell as a woman fell from the sky, hair bound with a dark cloth. Against the unarmed Chi Rong, 2 strokes of a spear forced him to retreat next to Qing Yan by the door. Then with a flash, she stood by Xing Yun's bed, spear in hand. Her eyes flashed dangerously.

"The King is here. Who dares to be presumptuous."

# Chapter 16:

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The dark clouds rumbled. There was no lightning, yet thunderclaps boomed loudly. For this abnormal phenomenon, the people were in a state of panic and anxiety.

Within the Rui Palace, the small room was overflowing with killing intent. Although Chi Rong's face still held a smile, his hands have already waved open a folding fan. Qing Yan had also already unsheathed his sword. The atmosphere within the chamber was enough to start a battle with a mere dropping of a hair. Both sides knew that if it were to be started, the other party would not be met with mercy due to relationships. The battle will be fought as if it were a war.

"King," Chi Rong waved his fan, laughing, "You've already caused a lot of trouble to the Demon Emperor, making him furious. Now, soldiers are prowling every inch of this world." He looked at the sickly Xing Yun behind her, "You as the Azure Sky King may be able to preserve your own life, but you definitely cannot save him as well. I hope that King will re-evaluate her own situation and not act rashly."

Chen Li paid no attention to him, only slightly leaning her body to turn her head at pale Xing Yun to shoot him a look, speaking, "Are you still alive?"

"Alive," Xing Yun shook his head, laughing, "But may die soon."

"You cannot die." Chen Li's right hand gripped the Hongying

Spear, then roughly, with the sharp edge of the spearpoint, slashed the hollow of her palm. The Hongying Spear absorbed the blood, dazzling light immediately shining.

Qing Yan frowned, about to go forward in an attempt to seize Chen Li. Chen Li waved her left hand, splatters of blood landing 3 foot away in front of Qing Yan. When he stepped foot onto the bloodstain, he felt a red hot glowing flame was cooking him from head to toe! He used his magical power, forcing the flame to scatter. But unexpectedly, the broiling fire only seemed to get hotter! It was as if it had it's own consciousness as it leaped, going so far as to even attack his 2 eyes. Qing Yan, to protect his eyes, had no choice but to retreat back to the door.

Chen Li spun the Hongying Spear, thrusting it straight into the ground in front of her. One could see the blood on the speartip moved along with the shaft, sliding down as it seeped into the earth. One could only see a golden flash as the blood condensed into a circle around 2 inco Chen Li's hes wide, surrounding Chen Li. Another one appeared, circling Xing Yun. She then tore off off piece of her robe and bandaged her left hand as she turned to Xing Yun, speaking:

“If I’m here, you cannot die.”

Xing Yun stared at her distractedly, the light behind her twinkling. Yet that dazzling ray couldn’t even be compared to Chen Li’s own vivid aura. It filled all of his sight, never ending, almost even making himself forget.....

Chen Li’s arm looped through his armpit, hauling his body onto

her back. Their bodies were pasted together, her body heating his, blood coursing through his internal organs.\* Xing Yun's lips held a seldom seen curve, making it impossible for one to decipher his mood, only pitch black.

"King," Qing Yan spoke solemnly, "A blood sacrifice technique will harm the soul. The wedding day is near, hopes King will treasure one's health."

Chen Li sneered, "If hasn't, then my feet and hands would've been cut off and I would've been bound and sent to marriage. This is just a soul wound, what's to fear?" Her gaze examined the room, although she couldn't see what was going on outside, she could still sense the general position of the soldiers outside. She wanted to find the direction with the least amount of people to force her way out.

But Qing Yan and Chu Rong both instantly understood what she planned to do. They shared a look with each other-This matter cannot be dragged on any further.

They both waved their weapons, and suddenly, 2 thunderbolts strook the golden circle, making a gap in the magic. Spotting it, the two charged in.

When such powerful supernatural powers collided, the remnants surged into the air, and after a loud boom, the little wing of the house disintegrated into ashes. Before the dust settled down, the dark clouds in the sky revealed themselves. The space was filled with innumerable rays of arrows. It was the pursuing soliders, who were hiding in the clouds and took advantage of the array to

attack, magic boosting the arrows.

Among the rain of arrows, a black figure and a red figure lept from the debris.

At this time, Qing Yan and Chi Rong were standing at the edge of the pit. But after a closer look, one could see an additional figure standing near, sunlight blocked behind his back. The man was broad, gold embroidered within his black robes which fluttered in the wind. 2 gold hair laces from behind him flew in front, “Nobility of the same nation, yet you’ve become increasingly more audacious.”

His voice, calm as always, held a royal feeling of majesty, making one unconsciously want to submit. Qing Yan and Chi Rong cupped their hands and kneeled, “Demon Emperor, beseech to quell your anger.”

D-Demon Emperor had actually came personally.....

Chen Li sensed his breathing getting weaker and weaker, his body no longer as warm as before. Chen Li’s heart suddenly felt cold. A sense of helplessness grew in her heart. She had ran and struggled so much, but she could still not escape the grasp of destiny.....

“Out.” The Demon Emperor’s cold voice ordered.

Chen Li wiped the blood off her lips and holding Xing Yun, she

jumped out of the pit. She placed Xing Yun on his side and checked his pulse-Weak, but alive.

“Do you know your wrongs?” Through his silver mask, the Demon Emperor sounded somewhat dull.

Chen Li looked at Xing Yun expectantly, “Do not know,” She spoke, “Choosing not to marry the one she does not love, Chen Li does not know of what wrongs she has committed. Not accepting the forced marriage, Chen Li does not know of what that wrong was. Not wanting for the people of the Demonic Realm to be restrained in Heaven, Chen Li does not know of what wrongs she has done.” Her eyes held a cold light to them, looking at the eyes hidden behind a silver mask, “When the people of the Demonic Realm submits to Heaven and lives there, they only have 1000 remaining years to live. Those heavenly immortals may idle about, crossing each day carefreely. However, my demon people must live in the broken down ruins, adjacent to the deep space-time rip. Year by year, miasma invades the ruins, no hope for any vegetation. My demon people will be crossing their lives in a way that is miserable beyond description! As part of the Royal Family and Nobility, we still need to help those useless guys from heaven to suppress the monster under the space-time rip? Why should we still have to, living in those broken down ruins, risking our lives?”

Chen Li sneered, “I look down on that sort of heaven, not wanting to marry, what is the wrong I have committed?”

These words spoken out loud made both Chi Rong and Qing Yan silent. The Demon Emperor also quieted, but soon spoke again, “You are not wrong. But on this matter, you have still violated the

imperial edict.” He waved his hand, “Take her away by force, lead her back for the penalty.”

Qing Yan made a move, wanting to grab Chen Li’s arm, but was scolded away by Chen Li, “This King will go!” Her static stare gazed attentively at Xing Yun. Her stare might’ve been a bit too hot, as Xing Yun opened his eyes, vision blurry. When he saw Chen Li looking at him, his pale lips cracked open, he chuckled like he normally did,

“Chen Li, you look even thinner than me.”

“Yeah.” Chen Li answered, “You can just think of it as me acting frivolously towards you.” In front of everyone, she leaned over and planted a heavy kiss on Xin Yun’s lips, Chen Li’s golden coloured hair tie had snapped and her hair came undone, swaying next to Xin Yun’s cheeks, the interaction of the cool touch of the strands of hair and the burning touch of the lips brought about a strange sensation within his body, causing him to become dazed. Chen Li did not know how to kiss, so she could only roughly cover Xin Yun’s lips with her own, and it was done with so much force that Xin Yun felt pain.

In this moment, her hand clutched onto his, the index finger gently covering the charred wound. Her fingertip flashed with light, as a bead of light gradually formed within her chest. It slowly moved to her finger and melded with Xing Yun’s flesh, replacing and filling out the hole inside his hand.

“I had said that you cannot die.” Chen Li’s lips left his, her voice somewhat quiet, “Although in the future, you may not feel better,

you will at least be able to live in peace.”

She was not skilled in the art of healing, so she couldn't completely erase the toxins within his body. She could only entwine her own magical powers with Xing Yun's blood and flesh, so the magic and the toxins in his body will battle, then suppress each other. Although this can prevent the toxins from reaching his heart and killing him, the unavoidable constant pain will still be there.

Chen Li straightened out Xing Yun's robes, and stood up, gently patting his shoulder. “When I said I fancied you, it was true. But I am in an arranged marriage, and can no longer stay with you.” A strong sense of nostalgia accompanied Chen Li as she left. The remaining 3 had also disappeared. Shortly after, the dark clouds above to capital city also left.

Xing Yun was left lying on the ground. His eyes held a distracted look to them. The 2 forces within his body constantly fighting back caused him to feel some discomfort, but his breath and temperature had recovered. The heat remained on his lips, and he was unable to help but look high up at the sky, touching it gently. After a long while, he laughed quietly, murmuring, “Speak as if..... You wanted to be with me, I would be willing to do the same.”

In the air, a long strand of hair landed on his face. Xing Yun held it in his hands. Unexplainably, he couldn't smile. Not even a little.

Cannot be together with him..... Huh.....

Clouds flew fleetingly in the sky

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“A mortal, who will re-enter reincarnation, and forget everything that had just happened and transpired here in just less than a hundred years.” The Demon Emperor stepped into the clouds, speaking coldly, “Why waste 500 years of cultivation to repair his wound with such magical power?”

Hearing this, Chi Rong and Qing Yan both looked at Chen Li with shock-500 years of cultivation, for them and their kind, was often just the tip of the iceberg. But what was important was, the Azure Sky King..... Actually gave it to a mortal?!?

Chen Li’s hands were bound together by an iron chain, her hanging loose hair made her look somewhat distressed. However, her eyes were not at all dejected-Rather, they just looked into a distant place, “I like.”

The Demon Emperor’s facial features contorted something like a sneer under the silver mask, “You are nothing but worried that I would send some men to kill him, to stamp out the source of trouble.” His demeanor was chillingly cold, “Why should I bother to, when in just 1-2 years later, he will forget about you, get married, and have children. That man will live a life that has nothing to do with you. Your feelings would be but a fleeting dream.”

Chen Li stayed silent, thinking at heart, if that were to be such, it'd really be good.

She recalled memories of the small courtyard, the cool breeze ruffling the grapevine lattice. The sound, it was so gentle. Xing Yun, that kind of gentle person should be living that kind of life. Ah, but one person living a life like that would be too lonely, someone should accompany him in that little courtyard. For someone to accompany him, is of course good, even though..... That person isn't her.....

Chen Li suddenly remembered of the day she had suddenly woken up in his yard. That was the first time she saw him, ripples of sun falling on him. The warm breeze was just right as he laid on the rattan chair, napping.

She hoped that throughout all his remaining years, everyday would be that tranquil.

Chen Li realised something-Looking at the distant palace, her heart had finally understood a little of how Little Lotus felt. Some matters, even if it is not worth it, it all consists of what you feel.

# Chapter 17:

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The ice encrusted doors slowly creaked open. Wisps of cold air gushed out from the Palace, revealing a 10-Foot main hall. 4 icicles stood, representing 4 different directions. In the middle, a glittering, translucent pure ice orb floated.

Within the frozen orb, there was a woman. A dark colored robe hugged her body, clinching her waist. Her hair was loose, eyes closed as if sleeping. But when the sound of footsteps echoed throughout the hall, her 2 eyes suddenly opened. They glistened with a sharp light as she turned to the source of the noise.

“King,” The black robed envoy kneeled on one knee, kowtowing in a salute, “Subordinate carries orders from Demon Emperor, came to escort King out of confinement.” He fished out a porcelain bottle from his bosom and unscrewed the cork, allowing the blood within the bottle to splash out onto the ground. Instantly, the 4 icicles lit up as inscriptions circled then. In the middle, the frozen ice orb slowly melted. When the ice had thawed to roughly the size of half a person, the rays of light emitted by the icicles stopped. The frozen orb that has lost it’s airborne support instantly plummeted to the ground, shattering into uncountable years worth of snow and ice inside the main hall.

Being frozen for too long, Chen Li’s 4 limbs were somewhat stiff, her body was covered with ice fragments. With the black clothed envoy’s help, she slowly managed to stand up, “You sealed me in the Ice Sacrificial Palace, but it’s only considered as confinement?”

The Ice Sacrificial Palace was one of the Demon Realm’s

forbidden lands, and holds the status and use as Heaven's Space-Time Rip, able to suppress even the most vicious and powerful of demons. The only difference between the two was that the Ice Sacrificial Palace's power was even greater than Heaven's Space-Time Rip. But in return, it could only trap one demon at a time. But throughout the millennia, all the felons were either captured and placed in Heaven's Space-Time Rip or killed. Therefore, the Ice Sacrificial Palace had remained here empty.

Chen Li had never once dreamed that she herself would've been sealed within there one day, nor has she ever thought that the marriage edict given by the Heavenly Emperor would've caused the Demon Emperor to feel this much stress—that he was so afraid of her once more trying to escape the marriage, he put her here! Chen Li stretched her arms, stepping over the foot of the mountain of ice. She walked to the front door, her mouth ridiculing, “Has the wedding team from heaven come to escort the bride there? That’s why you’re finally willing to free me.”

The black clothed envoy followed behind her, respectfully answering, “King is impatient. There is still another month of preparation before the wedding.”

Chen Li was startled, turning her head to ask him, “How long was I in there?” She remembered that day after she was caught by the Demon Emperor, he had ordered that she was to be confined to the Ice Sacrificial Palace. However, no one had told her how long she would be confined. Within the ice, she had no way of telling time. A day or a year they would’ve all felt the same to her.

The envoy replied, “The Demon Emperor’s heart was benevolent,

and had only confined King until January.”

In January..... 30 days had already passed, ah.....

Once they stepped out of the Ice Sacrificial Palace, the stone doors behind them loudly slammed shut. Chen Li raised her head to look, and not far away was Mo Fang calmly standing. When he saw her come out, he bowed his head in a salute. Seeing him, Chen Li was started. She didn't think that he would be here, and was even more surprised when Mo Fang turned to speak to the black robed messenger, “I will escort the King to return back now.”

“With this, this subordinate will return to deliver a successful report to the Demon Emperor.”

The black robed envoy disappeared. Mo Fang lowered his head and kneeled, “Mo Fang couldn't help King escape, please punish this subordinate.”

Chen Li was surprised for a moment, but then smiled and patted Mo Fang's shoulder, “I know you must've tried your best, struggling for that half a day. Just me escaping is suffice for you.... But it's just I that couldn't escape. It was my fault for not being able to live up to your efforts.”

“King.....”

“Go, return back home.” Chen li stretched lazily, “ I haven't gone home to sleep for a long time.”

“King, Mo Fang must say something.” He was silent for a long time, before finally speaking, “That human, has passed away within the mortal world.”

“En.” Chen Li answered, “I have already guessed so.”

One day in the sky was equal to one year in the mortal world. 30 whole years have passed. Xing Yun has no more than an ordinary human body. To have died in bed of old age by now would've been normal. Moreover, if not for the fact that Xing Yun has already left his world, how would the Demon Emperor dare to release her so easily? He, who has watched her grow up since birth, knew all too clearly of her temperament.

“Go back.” Chen Li walked 2 steps, then suddenly turned her head to look at Mo Fang, “When he passed away, did you see him?”

Mo Fang nodded, “Very calm and serene.”

“Of course, because he is Xing Yun, ah.” No matter how bad something is, in his eyes, he will just brush it away like dust. Her lips curved, “He ought to smile.”

Mo Fang remained silent, his eyes flickering. He remembered, when he was in the mortal world watching his last moments, he was lying on the sickbed. Although he was old, his demeanor had never changed. He stared at him, saying, “Ah, Chen Li’s subordinate.” His life energy was weak and feeble. Just that short phrase forced him to gasp for breath. Afterwards, he then said,

“Has Chen Li been well recently?”

Mo Fang did not answer him, and Xing Yun didn’t continue to ask either. Rather, he just leaned back and smiled. He closed his eyes and went to rest. Really is an indifferent person, but even as such a man, he still kept Chen Li in his mind, remembering for more than 30 years. Mo Fang chose to not tell Chen Li of this matter, instead just quietly asking, “Will King look for his reincarnation?”

“Won’t look.” Chen Li stepped on a cloud, not looking back as she said, “I fell for Xing Yun only, the first generation. Any other incarnations of him, I have nothing to do with them.”

The Azure Sky King Palace was very close to the imperial city. As Chen Li flew back to her palace, countless demons looked up and stared at her. She was used to it as she landed in her mansion, but before she could even stop, a large figure ran up and kneeled in front of her, clutching her legs and crying, “King! You’ve finally come back!!”

Chen Li was startled, but then just rubbed her forehead, “Up. Prepare the water, I want to take a bath. Chef? Make a meal, I’m hungry.”

The chubby girl lifted her head, eyes flashing with tears as she looked at Chen Li. “Earlier, general Mo Fang had come and informed us that King would return today. Rou Ya has already heated the water, and the cook has prepared the meal just as King came back.”

For a moment, Chen Li was surprised. She had never thought that Mo Fang had the foresight to prepare everything already! When she turned to look back, Mo Fang actually saluted to her, speaking, “On King’s safe arrival, Mo Fang asks to be excused.”

“.....Er, very well.”

Rou Ya escorted Chen Li to her room, and Chen Li lied down on the bed. She wasn’t fond of large amounts of people, so her palace’s staff were kept at the minimum. The cleaning lady is Ms.Zhang, an unsocial women. Normally, it is quite hard to see her, since she was always hiding in hidden places, silently cleaning the palace. The tasks of a lady-in-waiting, clothes maid, and server were all done by Rou Ya. She was a small, but boisterous and cheerful girl. The cook is simple and kind. He usually never leaves the kitchen. There’s also.....

“Ah, King! King! The king has returned, la~!” In the bedroom, sat a cage which contained a very loud, squawking parrot.

“Xuxu, shut your beak!” Chen Li glanced at it, then walked behind the screen. She took off her robes and sat them aside, sinking into the water comfortably. She raised her head in satisfaction, wanting to relax quietly. But then, across the screen, the parrot started squawking once again, “Did not run away, ah King! You were caught and now have to get wed to that prince, sad? King, king, king!”

Chen Li’s mouth twitched and she waved her hand. The door of

the iron cage opened with a loud “clang!”. Her hand changed into a claw, and lightly pulled. The parrot that was in the cage had suddenly reappeared in her hand, pulled through space! Chen Li’s clawed fingers pinched it’s wing and raised her eyebrow, staring at the parrot, “To think of it, I’ve never seen you without your feathers before.”

Inside the room, Xuxu was silent.

“King, don’t, ah! Ai! Good King, ah! Forgive, King!

Outside of the door, Rou Ya was guarding over the entrance. She looked at the doorway happily, “Today, Xuxu and King are quite happy together.” Just as she rested on the edge of the door, a bare bird suddenly rammed out with all his might, pushing at the crack between the door and shot out. It’s buttocks shook left and right as it ferociously dug a hole before jumping inside, burying himself. “Ah!.....” Rou Ya was startled, “That was..... Xuxu?”

“Leave him alone, he can’t run away.” Chen Li’s indifferent voice carried out from inside the room, “In any case, he can’t fly now.” Listening to her happy tone, there was a sense of satisfaction inside.

Rou Ya was overwhelmed with shock, turning her head. She deeply believed that King must’ve been subject to many terrible forms of abuse.... This psychology..... What a change from before.

When it was time to eat, an emissary from heaven came, bearing a message: “The Azure Sky King was to come to the Heavenly Palace in the afternoon and heaven’s emissary has come with the wedding dresses design, as to let Chen Li choose.” Chen Li just nodded, continuing to leisurely eat her meal. After the emissary left, Rou Ya, who was fanning Chen Li as she ate, humphed. “Choose what wedding gown? That casanova playboy Fu Rong! We, who were willing to come back and allow King to wed him, was the luckiest thing that happened to him! But he actually dared to run into the Palace to ask of the Heavenly Emperor to abolish the marriage more than a few times! It was like he actually believed King wanted to marry him!”

Chen Li listened, glancing at Rou Ya, “Gentleman Fu Rong actually went and disturbed the Heavenly Emperor how many times?”

Rou Ya carefully counted her fingers, but when she reached the last one, she could only scratch her head, saying, “Countless. King, when you were in the mortal world, I’ve heard that in Heaven, Fu Rong’s space was filled with women.”

“Ah, then my heart is satisfied.” At least this way, the other person arranged in the marriage was suffering from this as well. Just thinking about it already made her feel happier, ah.

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“Damned woman!!” A mahogany plate was covered by silk threaded gold robes, the plate thrown harshly on the ground. The servant immediately knelt down, “Lord Immortal, beseech to quell

your anger.” His body was cloaked with a snow white robe, inlaid with gold. The man ferociously stepped on the remains of the mahogany plate, angrily shouting, “It’s her fault, not escaping the arranged marriage! Now she’s choosing the wedding gown? Why do I not know of this?!?”

The servant continued to kneel, meekly whispering, “T-The Azure Sky King was found back as early as January.....”

“She couldn’t fight this!? Useless at this critical time!” Fu Rong was furious, clenching his teeth, “No! I must go and beg the Heavenly Emperor! That kind of women to marry, absolutely not!” As soon as he finished his words, he lifted up the hem of his robe and hurried to the Heavenly Palace.

The accompanying servant followed hastily, “Immortal, no, ah! If you make another scene, the Heavenly Emperor won’t be happy!”

Fu Rong just ignored him as he continued to hurry to the Heavenly Emperor’s Palace. Without bothering to inform the servants of his arrival, he just pushed through the door, entering. With a loud “Tong！”, he threw himself to the floor kneeling, weeping loudly, “Royal Grandfather, grandson..... grandson is bitter, ah!”

The palace was silent, but Fu Rong continued to sob. However, there were no angry remarks from the Heavenly Emperor. He suddenly got a bad feeling and lifted his head to see. On the throne sat the Heavenly Emperor, his face black with anger. But standing next to him was a man. His hair was pinned lazily with a blue

brooch, wisps hanging out. A long, white gown adorned his body, not even a speck of dust to be seen. His figure was handsome, and he radiated an aura of a King, high and lofty, attracting Fu Rong's attention.

The Heavenly Emperor suppressed his anger, voice dark, “Fu Rong, have you come to see Sir Xing Zhi?”

Fu Rong was shocked. Even though he spent most of his time on debauchery and didn't study the various famous gods of Heaven, he would still know Xing Zhi-The only living ancient god.

# Chapter 18:

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Fu Rong hurriedly stood up and wiped the tears off his face, lowering himself into a deep bow, “Has seen Lord Xing Zhi.”

Xing Zhi just smiled lightly, “En. It is good for young people to be lively.”

The Heavenly Emperor sighed helplessly, “No more than a disrespectful act.” He turned to look at Fu Rong, face solemn, “Anyways, what happened?”

“Royal Grandfather....” Fu Rong’s eyes held traces of tears. He wanted to talk, but he hesitated, glancing at Xing Zhi. He couldn’t help but feel embarrassed. But as he pondered about the matter, he suddenly realised that since he was going to be scolded anyways, it’d be better to say it now! With an outsider in the room, he definitely won’t be scolded as harshly. “Royal Grandfather, the Demonic Realm’s Azure Sky King, your grandson really cannot marry, ah!” He weeped, “Grandson has an illness! This will affect the relationship between the two nations, ai!”

“Pa!” The Heavenly Emperor slammed his hand on the table, his mood seeming even worse than normal, “You really didn’t put me in your eyes seriously! You even tried to tell me such a foolish excuse!” He angrily pointed his finger, shouting, “What disease!? Just yesterday, you were acting so! So.....” The Heavenly Emperor clenched his teeth. Due to Xing Zhi’s presence, he didn’t dare say of Fu Rong’s acts out loud. His heart was filled with resentment. Still furious, he could only grab a document with Fu Rong’s face and stamp on it with ink, “Shameful! The wedding date has been

decided,

“Royal Grandfather!” Fu Rong cried, “Forgive this grandson! The Azure Sky King herself doesn’t even want, she has even gone so far as running away to escape the marriage. If she vents all her anger at me, your grandson may not be able to see another day!”

“You!” The Heavenly Emperor’s voice, which was already as hard as iron, hardened into steel.

“Emperor.” Xing Zhi’s apathetic voice suddenly interrupted the conversation, “This.....”

The Heavenly Emperor hurriedly answered, a smile on his face, Sir Xing Zhi, since you’ve went to the mortal world to play for the past few days, you probably don’t know of this matter. Regarding your suggestion about using marriage to tie a link between the two worlds.... There has been some conflict between the 2 betrothed. But we all have already discussed, and the matter is settled. Thus, there is no space for regret. But since you suggested the idea, it goes without saying that it’ll be good! Juniors are Juniors. Being so young, it’s inevitable to have some unhappy days. But after getting married and living day and night under the same roof, it’ll naturally give birth to love! As long as the the Juniors are happy in the future, it’s good.”

Fu Rong vowed to himself, that no matter what, he would never feel any love towards that tigress, absolutely not! After hearing the rest of the Heavenly Emperor’s words though, he felt shock. This marriage.... Was suggested by Sir Xing Zhi?!

## Sir Xing Zhi created the marriage?

Sir Xing Zhi had already lived alone, away from heaven for countless years! He doesn't even know who is who in Heaven, never mind the Demon Emperor! How did he even choose the candidates for the marriage?! That old man who abruptly came back to Heaven to discuss a matter on a whim, had just unexpectedly destroyed his life, ah!

But alas, the damage has already been done. Along with Fu Rong's words, there's no wonder why the Heavenly Emperor's mood was even worse than normal. The Heavenly Emperor held strong feelings of fear and respect, yet today, Fu Rong had actually dared to complain against Xing Zhi's kindly intentions. If Xing Zhi's temper was invoked, than all his wrath would end up against the Heavenly Emperor! But since it has already progressed this far, now that he knows the person who was in charge behind the scenes, it would be far better to beg him instead.

Summoning his courage to a new level, Fu Rong bowed deeply towards Sir Xing Zhi. "Sir Xing Zhi bestowing a marriage upon me, Fu Rong feels honored. But, Fu Rong's past life is not compatible at all with the Azure Sky King Chen Li. The Azure Sky King's Hongying spear has a notorious reputation..... It's filled with a bloodthirsty, murderous aura, ah! Fu Rong's really not ready to handle this, such a wife, ah...."

"Presumptuous!" The Heavenly Emperor scolded loudly. Fu Rong's whole body trembled as he continued to kneel down. Suddenly, Fu Rong heard another voice say lightly, "So, delay it."

Fu Rong held a stunned look on his face, raising his head to look at Xing Zhi. His face was unreadable, his mouth drawn back into a light smile. The same stunned expression was on the Heavenly Emperor's face. Xing Zhi turned and faced the Heavenly Emperor, "Since both sides are so against it, then the Emperor might wish to bring the marriage back a little and delay it so the two have time to adapt. If unwilling to marry now, then Xing Zhi believes that it's because....." His head turned to look at Fu Rong. The smile on his face was wider, but his mouth spat out 3 words that made Fu Rong feel chills.

"Fear of blood."

Xing Zhi turned and faced the Heavenly Emperor, "Since both sides are so against it, then the Emperor might wish to bring the marriage back a little and delay it so the two have time to adapt. If they marry right now, then Xing Zhi is afraid that....." His head turned to look at Fu Rong. The smile on his face was wider, but his mouth spat out 3 words that made Fu Rong feel chills.

"Bloodshed might occur"

Blood..... Bloodshed.....

Fu Rong suddenly envisioned a barbaric, strong woman pressing him down on the floor, a long, silver spear constantly stabbing at his body. He trembled violently, looking desperately at the Heavenly Emperor, whose face had a helpless look to it. "The wedding date has already been established. If it were to suddenly

be changed on such a short notice, I'm afraid that it would be inappropriate."

Xing Zhi smiled, "It can be counted as my own fault. When I saw the marriage registry, I had thought that the Azure Sky King Chen Li was a male, and that Fu Rong was a female immortal. These 2 names, one hard, and one soft, seemed to have suited each other very well. I hadn't thought that I've mixed the two up! So Xing Zhi helps give them more time to adjust as forgiveness, making up for his error. Will that be good enough for the other gods to oblige?"

After Xing Zhi's argument, the Heavenly Emperor that was previously unwilling, hastily agreed, unable to even refuse. Turning his head, he could only release his anger on Fu Rong, "Why are you still here! You haven't excused yourself yet?"

Fu Rong hurriedly kneeled before withdrawing, walking through the hall with long steps. The accompanying aide caught up and asked, "Lord Immortal, still good?"

Fu Rong massaged his forehead, muttering, "Good is good, but how strange..... Since it's a mistake, why not just get rid of this whole marriage? That way, there would be no risks at all in the future." He paced in the hall, pondering, "Was he trying to insult me, saying my name was like a female's?"

The attendant was confused, "Lord Immortal?"

Fu Rong dramatically swung his hair, "Haha, it doesn't matter. In any case, this immortal is still free and unfettered. Forward! To

the Hundred Blossom Pond to take a look at the countless beauties!"

"Lord Immortal..... Ah, wait ah! The Heavenly Emperor will definitely be angry!"

~~~

When the news was passed on to the Demonic Realm, Chen Li was currently in the Demon's Palace. She, amongst several other generals were discussing official business at a small round table. The soldiers situated between the borders of Heaven had felt fluctuations from the Space-Time Rip. Although it wasn't a lot of power, the Space-Time Rip has been abnormally silent for more than 1000 years, as stagnant as still water. With a sudden movement happening so abruptly, one must be vigilant.

The high ranking generals discussed, finally choosing Mo Fang and Ze Xia, 2 generals, to go to the boundary and investigate. If there were to be an anomaly, one were to come back and report, and the other was to stay and help the soldiers if needed.

Just as the meeting was about to be dismissed, the imperial edict from heaven reached the Palace. Listening to the envoy reading out the change of date regarding the wedding, the faces of the powerful generals all turned black. "Suddenly changing the marriage date? Whenever it regards the marriage, Heaven just does as they please."

In the corner, Chen Li sat quietly, not speaking. The atmosphere

was hard for a long time. Finally, it was the Demon Emperor that broke the silence, “This meeting is done, everybody may go.”

All the generals sighed one after another, and got up to leave. Before he left, Mo Fang turned to look at Chen Li. Her eyes were indifferent, about to leave as well. Suddenly, the Demon Emperor called out, “Li-er, stay behind.” Her name ringed with affection, the voice not blaming or pleading. Mo Fang lowered his eyes and left.

The er on Li-er is a form of endearment, usually intimate, between family and friends.

In the room, only Chen Li and the Demon Emperor remained. Behind the silver mask, a sad, slightly broken voice sounded, “You, towards Fu Rong, this man, what do you see?”

“Fu Rong, Fu Rong. Whether rain or dew, as long as they have it, none will be left unstained.” Chen Li’s voice was thick with disdain, “Just from the name, you can tell. If he walks in a field of flowers, none will be left untouched.”

Basically debauchery (excessive indulgence in sensual pleasures. i.e. party, alcohol, sex, etc.)

The Demon Emperor was surprised for a moment, “It looks like you already have a thorough understanding of him.”

Chen Li turned her head, “Does not dare to.”

Watching her acting so difficult, the Demon Emperor knew in his

heart, that when the edict was read out, although she herself didn't say it outloud, her self esteem had gotten a terrible blow. He kept silent for a while, before finally speaking again, "Chen Li, do you know who arranged the marriage?"

"Other than that bored, royal family in Heaven, then who else?"

"There is also Sir Xing Zhi." The Demon Emperor's demeanor turned serious, "An ancient god living a solitary existence from heaven, your marriage was bestowed upon you by him."

Chen Li was startled. Xing Zhi was like a legend within the 3 realms. The only living ancient god, who by solely his own power, created Heaven's Space-Time Rip, and prevented the 3 realms from destruction, sealing in the wicked beasts milleniums ago. His strength is unrivaled among the modern gods. But for more than 1000 years, no one has caught sight of him, in the end, no one knows if he was even real, or just fictional. But suddenly, the Demon Emperor had just told her that Xing Zhi bestowed her the marriage?!"

"Ah, this Xing Zhi, compared to the royal family in Heaven, must be even more bored!" Chen Li sneered, "He must've had no idea who was who, and just picked 2 random names out of the registry. That \*\*\*\*\* stupid guy, taking his words like orders from the realms itself." Her voice was irritated, "So to speak, this new date is his doing?"

Because, that Heavenly Emperor views Xing Zhi with so much respect, he probably doesn't dare to change or do anything about the marriage. If there needs to be a change, at the very least, he

still needs to get Xing Zhi's agreement before anything else. What he says, is what the Heavenly Emperor will do.

Thinking about her own fate, that could change randomly with a few mere words from someone who hasn't been seen for thousands of years, Chen Li's heart couldn't help but become more and more angry, slamming the table with her fist. "He only sealed some domesticated animals inside the Space Time Rip, yet he's acting so pretentious! He forced me into an arranged marriage. Then, he changed the date of the marriage completely. Does he think, that I, Chen Li, is a vegetarian?"

"Li-er, sit down." The Demon Emperor's voice was indifferent. Although her heart was unwilling, she still followed his words, sitting down on the chair. However, her fists were still clenched. "Xing Zhi of the three realms. His power, not only Heaven, but I myself respect it as well."

"Why!" Chen Li was dissatisfied, "He only waved his hand in Heaven's Space Time Rip, but the work is burdened upon our race to protect the seal for over 1000 years. Not only that, but he even used marriage to take me away from my own kind!" Mentioning this matter, Chen Li grew even more furious, remembering all the things the Demonic Realm's people had been subject to, "Why must we obey Heaven, follow their every word?! My kind's soldiers are brave and many. Having to bend to their every will, then might as well slaughter through Heaven itself, not allowing them to have another day of peace!"

"Shut your mouth." The Demon Emperor's manner was grave. Chen Li wanted to continue speaking, but knew in her heart that

this time, the Demon Emperor was truly angry. She didn't want to quarrel with him. Chen Li could only suppress her anger, listening to him talk, "You can speak of a war so easily, when Chen Li, you have not gone through a genuine war."

Chen Li has fought on the battlefield numerous times, but the battles were always fought against the monster tribes. Rather than saying it was 2 armies fighting, it was more like a hunt. She could not have a say in something she never experienced. Chen Li unwillingly sat, refusing to acknowledge the Demon Emperor's words.

It was silent. The Demon Emperor sighed, his palm gently rubbing her head. "Go back home. I leave you to calm down, so you can have your tantrum there. I didn't think that I would've made you this aggravated over the marriage."

The Demon Emperor's voice was soft and gentle. Chen Li's heart couldn't hold it back anymore. The corners of her mouth drooped down slowly, a rare, wronged look, similar to one's of a child appearing on her face, "Master, I don't want to marry."

He remained silent, and rubbed her head. "Go home."

# Chapter 19:

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Chen Li returned home, passing through the sandy dunes in the great hall. Irritated, her foot shot out to kick a small sandpile. Xuxu's naked body stared up at her within the sand, near her foot. Chen Li raised an eyebrow as Xuxu's mouth rapidly moved, "I was ashamed to even see one person, ah, King! Without feathers, I have never been so ugly, ah! Good, King! So ruthless, so despicable!"

Chen Li lifted up her ankle, straightening her spine, "Filthy, ah. Say, I've never seen you take a bath before, ah. How would you look, soaked in water?" Xuxu stayed silent. Chen Li called, "Rou Ya! Prepare the water!"

"Ah! King, forgive me! You may drown this subordinate to death! Ah! King! Are you sad, ah! You're venting your anger on Xuxu, ah! My fate is in your hands, ah..... Cluck, cluck....."

"I must care for you thoroughly."

Hearing Chen Li talk so much, Rou Ya was startled, asking, "What did the Demon Emperor say?"

"Haha, it's nothing

King.... Really, what happened....

~~~

Fu Rong and Azure Sky King Chen Li's marriage got postponed. The news circulated out to the public, becoming one of the many gossips discussed by the demon people in their leisure time. . But on the tenth day after the news, a letter written with blood has been sent from the boundary, it's contents causing all of the Demon Realm's people to tremble-

Heaven's Space-Time Rip's seal has been broken!

All the criminals sealed within had escaped, only leaving one scorpion tailed fox, it's tail not even completely formed yet. But even so, it had severely damaged the garrison stationed at the border. The general sent by the Demon Emperor, Ze Xia had rushed back desperately to send the news, but was killed on horseback before even arriving at the palace. General Mo Fang remained, tenaciously clinging to border, refusing to let it trample even half a foot of the demon land. It was a military emergency, not allowing even a second for delay.

When the Demon Emperor received the news, he immediately ordered an elaborate for Ze Xia, and on the side, sent a messenger to inform Heaven about the event.

At this time, Chen Li, who was discussing official matters within the palace conveniently heard his orders. She strook the table angrily, “ Why must we have to inform Heaven!? While those \*\*\*\*\* are discussing outcomes, my demon soldiers are suffering unjustified deaths! Demon Emperor, Chen Li pleads to go to battle!”

The Demon Emperor was silent.

At this time, there were also 3 old veterans in the room, listening onto the conversation. After considering the duo's points, their representative, the white haired elder opened his mouth, "Lord, although there are many great and clever generals within the palace, none are more better suited to deal with the miscreants than Chen Li. This subordinate knows that you place much emphasis on Chen Li's unique position in the arranged marriage. However, we are in a time of crisis! This subordinate must request for you to understand the importance of the numerous casualties of brave soldiers defending our borders as well!"

The Demon Emperor's finger tapped the table, finally turning his head, "Chen Li."

Chen Li immediately knelt down, fist cupped in a salute, "Present."

"This January, do not even take half a step out of your palace." Chen Li looked up at him, shocked. By the side, the three veterans shared a look with one another, but this time, kept silent. However, Chen Li was unwilling, "Demon Emperor! The boundary....."

"The chaos at the borders will be dealt by General Shang Bei. He will go to investigate, and if cannot cut down the fox, will seek help from Heaven."

"Oh great, powerful, immortal Demon Emperor! Hah, you really are just a puppet dancing to Heaven's tune!" Chen Li was furious.

Disregarding every aspect of etiquette, she stood up and marched to the door, slamming it on the way out.

In the room, it was silent. Finally, the Demon Emperor broke the silence. “Three veterans. Do you believe that I have made a mistake?”

One of the veterans sighed, “Little king is still young, she cannot understand lord’s good intentions. But lord, relax your heart. There will always be a part of her who will always know about the lord’s care and love for her.”

“En...” The eyes behind the silver mask was weary. “One day, she’ll understand.”

General’s Ze Xia’s coffin was not yet sealed. Taking the chance, Chen Li took a look. His face was covered with green patterns, and his fingertips were already rotted black. The medical officers had said that this was due to the scorpion-tailed fox’s toxin, but with Ze Xia’s skill, it shouldn’t have been fatal. But in order to bring this message to the castle, he disregarded his injury, riding back non-stop! This caused the poison within his body to reach his heart, taking away his life.

Hearing this, Chen Li clenched her teeth tightly. Her brother, her comrade in arms, had spent his life to bring back this news to the underground demon palace. Yet the result ended in setting up an elaborate funeral for his dead corpse, notifying Heaven, sending another squadron to their deaths, all while pleading for Heaven’s help! There was no way that this is the result Ze Xia wanted to die for!

He used his life, trading it for the fate of the garrisons by the border. The sooner he could report back, the sooner aid would be sent, the sooner the chance of the monster getting slain! Perhaps then, many, many lives could've been saved.

Ze Xia's corpse was surrounded by a beautifully placed frame, a smile on his face. Chen Li's fists clenched. She could understand how he must've felt upon reaching the palace before finally being allowed to die on his horse. His mission was complete, and he was finally relieved of his burden. But the Demon Emperor..... Chen Li ground her teeth. In the chamber, 2 servants approached, planning to drag the coffin into the center of the room. Suddenly, she felt an urge overtake her as she clenched onto the coffin, refusing to let them to move it.

“King?”

Chen Li bit her finger, spattering all over her hand. She slammed her hand on the coffin, leaving bloody fingerprints as she softly muttered, “Chen Li will complete your the rest of your mission.”

Without another word, she turned and left the palace.

She returned to her home. When Xuxu saw her, he sensed danger and immediately ran to hide in his cage. However, Chen Li just grabbed him. Nearby, Rou Ya gasped when she saw how Chen Li was holding Xuxu roughly by the neck, almost choking him, “King, you cannot, ah! Xuxu can’t breathe!”

“This bird that I have raised is not that weak. Leave, and close the door.”

Rou Ya looked into Chen Li’s eyes, frightened, but finally complied, exiting the room. She closed the door, but she still didn’t leave, silently standing behind the door. Before long, Chen Li started speaking, “Today, I am going into retreat. No matter who comes, tell them that I cannot meet with anyone right now.”

Rou Ya was confused; what to do now? She scratched her head, finally choosing to gather her courage and open the door. She took a quick glance inside, but suddenly felt something next to her foot. Taking a closer look, it was Xuxu, ah, naked! But for some reason, it seemed far happier than before, jumping up to skip down the hall in high spirits.

King didn’t do anything to him? Rou Ya pushed the door a little more to look inside, bypassing the screen blocking her. She saw Chen Li meditating, looking exactly as one would be during a retreat. Ah, she just intruded on King’s retreat! How rude! Rou Ya immediately backed out, closing the door after her. But as she swept the floors, she couldn’t find Xuxu at all, ah!

She didn’t know that currently, Chen Li had already infiltrated the army, beating down a random soldier and stealing his clothes and his badge before changing her appearance into his. Like that, she had set out to the border!

But at this time in the Underground Demon Palace, Chi Rong was kneeling in front of the Demon Emperor, reporting, “Chen Li has gone to the border, and Qing Yan is tailing behind her. Demon

Emperor, do you want her to be brought back?"

The one behind the silver mask was silent for a long time before finally sighing. "Just go accompany her."

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The demon army's speed was fast, but it still took 2 days to reach the border. Although only a small portion of the Space-Time Rip's seal has been broken, the miasma emitted from it had already covered the whole borderline. Many of the weaker demon soldiers could only vomit all day long, nevermind fight! Even sitting up was difficult! But Mo Fang's leadership was efficient and organized, managing to keep the scorpion-tailed fox more than 10 miles away from the border. But when the army arrived at the battlefield, hearing the roar of the beast, even so far away, despite having slain beasts for years, their legs could all not help but tremble.

Sure enough, a creature sealed within the Space-Time Rip was no ordinary beast. It was far more powerful.

But when Chen Li remembered how Ze Xia looked like in the coffin, her fists still clenched with anger.

"Attention!" General Shang Bei ordered loudly, causing all the reinforcements from the Demon Emperor to hurriedly line up in formation. However, there was one soldier at the very end who did not, instead daring to directly walk up towards him. Upon seeing this, General Shang Bei was furious, "For daring to disobey military orders, 30 hits with a rod!"

Chen Li took off the heavy helmet over her face and raised her head to look at him, “General Shang Bei. Chen Li is bold, and wishes to join the borderline battle.”

“k-K-..... King?!”

Seeing her, the army was in a huge commotion. Here, they have to chance to battle, side by side, with the Azure Sky King herself, in flesh! They have only heard of her name, but anyone would know that the Azure Sky King is invincible! In a mere moment, their spirits soared as their morale rose to a sudden high.

Although Shang Bei was glad the morale was high, he also knew that Chen Li was about to be married! Moreover, the Demon Emperor didn’t allow her to come out to battle, and as a soldier of the Demon Emperor, he must keep Demon Emperor in mind at all times. “King, the Demon Emperor has refused to let you go to battle. This little subordinate does not dare have the courage to....”

Before he could finish his words, Chen Li interrupted, “General, since Chen Li is already here, I will not go back without bringing the head of the beast first. Within 3 days, this king will have the beast under my foot.”

Hearing such bold remarks, the army was silent. For a moment, Shang Bei was also silent. Suddenly, he flicked the reins in his hands, unsheathing his sword valiantly, “Prepare to set out!”

Chen Li and Shang Bei rode side by side. “Many thanks to general for allowing Chen Li to participate in this war.”

“King, if this subordinate had chosen not to allow you to join the war, what would you have done?”

“Knock you out, take charge of your army, and go to execute the beast.”

Shang Bei smiled bitterly, “Exactly.”

The more they moved forward, the thicker the miasma. The roars grew louder, causing many of the soldiers to stare in shock and fear. Breaking through the miasma, the reinforcement team finally saw the monster, clashing ferociously against Mo Fang. It’s body was huge, resembling one of a fox. However, the tail was one of a scorpion’s, waving viciously high in the air. Just a mere glance of the huge, poisonous barb on the end of it’s tail caused fear. When it caught sight of the reinforcements, it opened it’s mouth roared, flashing sharp, bloody, red fangs. They were like the edges of a saw, teeth lined up in a zig zag like pattern. The saliva dripped into the earth, turning the sand and gravel into thick, greasy slop.

The remains of Mo Fang’s army were covered with blood, utterly exhausted. Only Mo Fang continued to fight, facing it alone.

Shang Bei roared loudly, “To war!!!”

Before he even shouted, Chen Li had already grasped her

Hongying Spear and flew forward. Shouting loudly, she threw the Hongying spear, landing straight onto the middle of the fox's head! The harsh magical power reached inside the brain, causing the scorpion-tailed fox to hiss loudly at the sky in pain. The barbed scorpion tail shot directly at Chen Li, who immediately pulled out her spear and twisted around, meeting the barb with her spear. Adding force behind her spear, Chen Li directly chopped off the sharp tipped barb on the scorpion-tailed fox's tail!

It screeched loudly, almost breaking the eardrums of everybody present. It stumbled around in a dazed state, it's claw nearly landing on Mo Fang! Chen Li dived downwards at him, pushing Mo Fang into the air, making him land 30 feet away. Chen Li feet stood firm on the ground as she squatted, wielding her spear up. The moment the fox was about to land on her, she thrusted up, piercing straight through the paw pad!

But in this moment, the foul blood that spilled out dyed Chen Li red. The distraction managed to let the scorpion-tailed fox to retreat safely, albeit defeated.

Behind her, Mo Fang stared at Chen Li, "King."

Chen Li turned her head to look at him. She could see that his battle armor was shattered, face covered with blood. She stared into the distance. The reinforcement soldiers were rescuing their comrades around the globs of earth. But still, it was impossible to know how many soldiers were buried under the greasy globs, the number of cold bodies sunken below them. Chen Li bit her lip. Her hands that were clenching the spear had already turned white. "I'm sorry..... I'm too late...."

# Chapter 20:

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The Scorpion Tailed Fox's pupils zoomed on Chen Li, following her every move. With each breath he took, his fur trembled with pain. Suddenly, it's body tensed up tightly, the wound healing gradually in the process.

Chen Li's eyes flashed with shock-Her Hongying spear had drank innumerable amounts of blood in battle, causing it's blood-thirst to become terrifyingly strong. If a common demon were to be stabbed with it, the healing process would be incredibly slow. But this one.....

"King, careful." Behind her, Mo Fang urgently reminded her. You could only see the demonic beast's tail swing viciously, smashing towards Chen Li. Although the barb on the end has been cut off, the remainder of the tail was still hard and powerful. Chen Li's gaze sharpened. Her empty hand reached out and she shouted lowly. Above, the scorpion tail that was about to smash into her had exploded, thick, corrosive toxin spattering out as well in the sky. Chen Li's hand waved, her magical powers mutating into a strong wind. The poison that was about to land on the soldiers below were scattered by the breeze.

"Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!" The Scorpion Tailed Fox suddenly faced the sky and laughed, it's throat somehow producing a human like voice. Chen Li frowned, the closer a beast is of to a human, the more powerful it will be. Fighting against someone whose body that unleashes corrosive toxins and has extremely strong healing abilities in poisonous miasma..... This will certainly be a long and thorny war.

Not bothering to wait for Chen Li to figure out the meaning of his laugh, the ambiguous voice once more rumbled in the fox's throat, "I did not expect for the current Demonic Realm to actually have such a good seedling. If you were to be given more time, you surely would've become a great talent. Such a pity that you do not have much more time."

Just then, Chen Li had moved forward a step and stabbed the spear into the large paw in front of her. However, the stabbed paw held no scars or wound visible at all. It's neck stretched forwards, inhaling a large mouthful of the miasma. His head was raised high in delight, as if savoring a delicious meal. His fierce eyes became blood red, howling out a loud cry. The sound grew higher and higher, becoming as sharp as a knife. The soldiers all fell to the floor, their eardrums piercing with unbearable pain as they clutched their ears, groaning. At the same time, the wound on his head that Chen Li had stabbed earlier healed completely. On his tail, the decapitated barb regrew at a slow, but noticeable pace. His ash gray fur made popping noises, the muscle underneath strengthening as it expanded.

His body was even bigger now. Chen Li clenched her teeth, but listened to Mo Fang calling behind her, "King, take note that the beast has made use of the toxic miasma! It's self recovery is far better and it can absorb it's opponent's strength!"

Hearing what Mo Fang had said, all the soldiers were startled. The fatal wound that Chen Li had dealt earlier was nothing but some free power for it to absorb! She frowned, " You really know how to make a person irritated, ah." The Hongying spear shook in her hands, and Chen Li leaned her head slightly sideways.

“General Shang Bei! Assist the charge!”

General Shang Bei was shocked, but quickly recovered and ordered loudly, “Formation!”.

The army immediately moved into action. The beast’s blood red eyes swivelled around, wanting to judge the whereabouts of the soldiers. However, Chen Lia actually leaped on top of him, obstructing his sight. Her spear swept across his two eyes only to hear a loud ‘Ding!’ instead. It was the Scorpion Tailed Fox’s newly formed barb, and had blocked Chen Li’s spear, the collision sparking a loud ‘ding!’. But this time, the scorpion tail barb remained intact and undamaged. Her magical powers were currently far less than earlier, and her level of her powers were equivalent to her fighting strength. With so little, Chen Li naturally wasn’t strong enough to have an even fight. Therefore, Chen Li immediately bit the bullet and led the charge personally. If she could give the other men an opening, even if just for a moment, it will be sufficient.

3 crossbow bolts immediately shot out, each with a long iron chain trailing behind them. They flew in the air, landing squarely embedded in the Scorpion Tailed Fox’s back. The sharp, heavy arrow dug deep into its flesh, reaching its bones. If it were to charge, its bones would’ve been directly tugged out from within its body. The three adjacent powers all pulled, restraining the monster until it could no longer move. An opening has been revealed, now, the only thing left is to cut off the head!

In the air, Chen Li still hadn’t had the chance to move before the Scorpion Tailed Fox sneered, “It’s been thousands of years, but

these battle formations unexpectedly still haven't changed."

In her heart, Chen Li felt a bad premonition. The beast's body shifted, planning to stake it all, but suddenly he hissed with pain. One of his bones were slowly pulled out, and as it did, his hiss slowly turned into an angry roar as his tail flicked from side to side. But one of the triangle formation's 3 hooks were broken, no longer able to contain the fox. Now it was able to move around free, do as he likes. If he were to try and deal a killing blow now, the situation won't be good.

By the time Chen Li regained her thoughts, it was too late. In a blink of an eye, his tail that was swinging side to side spat out poison, dripping over the battlefield. With her left hand, Chen Li pushed back the soldiers who were holding the chain out of harm's way. The soldiers knew that if they were to get hit by the poison, they inevitably would suffer a cruel death. However, they were still somewhat unwilling to let go of the iron chains that bound the beast. With her right hand, Chen Li stabbed the Hongying spear between the shackles binding the fox, the chain twisting around her spear. Using the spear like an anchor, she ruthlessly plunged it deep into the earth. Her actions were done with great speed, but before she could completely finish, the barb on the Scorpion Tailed Fox's tail plunged towards her right before her eyes. But just before it was about to pierce through her, a figure charged in and pushed her to the side, saving her.

"Mo Fang?!" Chen Li stared at him in shock.

After fighting alone for several days, Mo Fang was utterly exhausted. His body held who knows how many wounds, but the

only thing echoing in his mind was to save Chen Li, the only force driving him forward. Hearing her voice, knowing she was safe, Mo Fang's heart was content. Just knowing of Chen Li made him feel at ease, but suddenly, his back was filled with immeasurable pain. Turning his head to take a look, he suddenly understood why the normally calm Chen Li was so frantic. The Scorpion Tailed Fox had once again attacked down with his stinger, and pierced his back with the barbed stinger, almost penetrating through his shoulder blades.

Unexpectedly was.....wounded..... Not aware.

Seemingly lost all of his remaining energy, Mo Fang's eyes closed.

Chen Li felt her body turn cold. She remembered Ze Xia, his body cold and lifeless as he laid in the coffin. She looked around, turning her body. The sandy soil was covered by corpses, broken corpses of the army. These people, somewhere in the Demonic Realm, they had a home, with family eagerly awaiting their safe return. Just like that old woman in the human realm, waiting year by year, hope in their hearts. But now, they can no longer return home... .... Chen Li looked at the barb, once again regrowing into another sharp tip, pitch black eyes gradually turning red.

They all couldn't go back, all because of this damned beast that escaped from the Space-Time Rip! This sin, it must be paid with 1000 deaths!

Chen Li gently pushed Mo Fang's body, "Withdraw." The word fell out from her mouth. The sound wasn't loud, but like waves of

water, spread through around the wicked beast and reached Shang Bei who didn't hesitate in the slightest and immediately called, "Withdraw!"

The soldiers all rushed to follow the orders. Seeing this, the beast started to laugh, "We've all submitted to that useless Emperor, that Emperor who was no more than a puppet of Heaven's. It's been 1000 years, but he's only gotten more foolish. It'll be best for him to digest in my stomach!"

"You have disrespected my Emperor and slaughtered my soldiers." Her cold voice suddenly echoed in its ear, "You, have angered me."

The Scorpion Tailed Fox's head reared, it's poisonous saliva flying into the air. Chen Li made a grabbing motion with her hand, and the spear that was binding the chains moved. It flew in an arc, landing in Chen Li's hands, who spun it around to block all the spit. She brandished it, golden light flaring from the spear.

Shang Bei was stunned, hurriedly shouting, "King! Stay calm! That demonic beast can absorb your magic power for his own use!"

Chen Li sneered, "Good, ah." Her figure flashed, reappearing suddenly on the Scorpion Tailed Fox's back, her Hongying spear stabbing downwards into the already made wound of the crossbow bolts. "Try to absorb this!" Harsh, barbarian like power surged through the speartip, golden light piercing it's body through the abdomen all the way down to the soil underneath, causing the Scorpion Tailed Fox to roar madly in pain. Chen Li could hear the Hongying spear drink, unexpectedly even wanting to drain it dry!

But while the golden light surged in, Chen Li's magical powers grew weaker and weaker, until it was completely consumed. In return, the beast's muscles swelled, healing at an unbelievable pace. Standing on its back, Chen Li had a very clear view as everything happened. It was so fast, that Chen Li's spear was almost stuck inside the flesh.

"Hahahaha!" The Scorpion Tailed Fox laughed, "A child still stinking of breast milk dares to try and attack me!" Its jaws opened wide as its head turned back, red eyes looking at Chen Li. At the same time, the scorpion tail barb waved in front of her. Chen Li was forced back a few steps, but suddenly, the area above her head became dark as the stench of rotting flesh snuck into her nostrils. She could only see the Scorpion Tailed Fox's bloody teeth, venomous saliva swimming inside his mouth. Suddenly, the world turned black.

"King!!" Shang Bei exclaimed. The soldier's hearts almost stopped beating.

Azure Sky King..... The invincible Azure Sky King had just got eaten.....

The body of the Scorpion Tailed Fox grew larger as it let out an extremely carefree and happy cry. It was loud and long, scaring the soldiers immensely, "Ha ha ha! When I free my fellow brothers, we will surely restore the Demonic Realm glory! Ha ha ha!"

Suddenly, its voice screeched to a stop. Its body shook violently

as if some sudden pain appeared inside his body. Soon, it's shaking grew more and more berserk. Watching it's body tremor with such force, all the soldiers stared, shocked and confused.

Shang Bei's gaze fell onto the throat of the Scorpion Tailed Fox and saw the skin suddenly swell dramatically as it's toes curling tightly in pain, it's tail waving madly. At this moment, the Hongying spear that was still stuck in it's back suddenly disappeared, and it's throat suddenly glowed with a burst of golden light. Everybody watched, golden light tearing through the flesh as it glowed frightfully.

The Scorpion Tailed Fox's mouth opened, yet was unable to produce even a single sound, apparently due to the ferocious battle against the golden light. Finally, the Hongying spear pierced through the neck area. Golden light gathered suddenly, and one could only hear a loud "BOOM", before the giant head was cut off from the inside, tumbling to the ground. But what also came out was a woman, clothes bathed in blood.

Her body was coated with blood and unknown liquids, the hairband tying her hair, broken, her long hair down and loose. The killing intent around her still didn't disperse.

Her sharp footsteps echoed as she approached the Scorpion Tailed Fox's head slowly, contempt in her eyes. Within the miasma, that pair of bloody red eyes stared in terror.

"No..... N-No, this is impossible....." The Scorpion Tailed Fox's mouth still moved.

“No one told you?” Chen Li’s foot stepped on its nose, “You cannot just eat things randomly.”

The Hongying spear pierced into the middle of its forehead. It’s eyes rolled white, before dying, his mouth still twitched, “Obviously..... Just..... A small girl....” Before he left the world, he stared into Chen Li’s eyes, that were still glowing with a red light, suddenly shocked like he just became aware of something, “Formerly.....”

Unexpectedly, it was like this....

His eyes closed. Chen Li withdrew the spear and pointed it up at the sky, “The wicked beast has been executed!”

For a moment, the world was quiet, followed by the outbreak of a loud cry, “Azure Sky King! Azure Sky King!”

But no matter how loud the men cheered, Chen Li couldn’t hear any of them. In her eyes, the world was blurry. She only subconsciously turned around, wanting to go to the other side. But by the cheering soldiers, there was also a white figure within the heavy mist, quietly staring at her.

Xing Yun.....

She took a single, difficult step towards in that direction, not even noticing when she let the Hongying spear fall to the floor.

Each step she took, a bloody trail followed. Everyone saw her hand was broken, cheeks burned by the venom. It was silent, as everybody watched her slowly walk in that direction, that one which Chen Li walked as they all silently paved the road clear for her. Chen Li wasn't aware of anything else but the road she walked. The crimson glow slowly faded from her eyes. Besides that figure in white, she couldn't see anything else.

In this battlefield she has turned into an empty fairyland, only he is what can lead her out.

Xing Yun.....

Chen Li struggled to lift her hand, fingertips touching warm skin. She brought a bloody fingertip, wiping a red streak through his fair, clear face. She seemed to hear sounds coming from the outside, somebody smiling gently and say to her, "Chen Li, time to eat."

En. She wanted to eat the food he makes.

She missed him.

Her fingers slid down, her body falling into a warm embrace. Although there wasn't the smell of herbs, it was equally warm.

# Chapter 21:

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A wet, but soft warm body fell into his arms, slowly sliding downwards. A hand extended, unafraid of the filth on her body, and pulled Chen Li into his embrace. Her hand that bloodied his face gently fell to her side before being caught by another. His hand flipped her's as his fingertips felt for her pulse. The man clothed in white frowned, “Where is the field camp?”

Shang Bei quickly stepped forward. For a lady yet to be wed, it was naturally inappropriate to be in a man’s embrace. Chen Li’s purity must stay untouched. But when he sensed the heavenly power surrounding the white clothed man, Shang Bei realized that he must’ve been the messenger sent by Heaven. They would naturally be no rush to bring Chen Li back. But Heaven..... Only sent one person down!?

“Your excellency is?”

“Sky Beyond Heaven, Still Water Pavilion, Ancient God Xing Zhi.”

Although the people of the Demonic Realm didn’t know anything about the Sky Outside Heaven and weren’t familiar with the Still Water Pavilion, the whole universe knew about Xing Zhi, the only living Ancient God; and the very same god that arranged Chen Li’s marriage.....

Shang Bei immediately turned respectful. If it was his word, then it must be taken seriously.

“I must apologize. I’ve spent too long in the mortal realm so I had gotten a bit lost after not visiting for a while and was late.”

Shang Bei fell silent. It wouldn’t be a good idea for him to be impolite in return to his politeness. He ordered, “Clear the battlefield and assist the injured soldiers together to the field camp!” He quickly stepped to Xing Zhi’s side and reached out a hand as he said, “I do not dare to trouble sire, and will carry King instead.”

“No.” Xing Zhi’s body twisted, evading Shang Bei’s outstretched hands, “There’s no harm if I hold her. She came to me herself.” Once spoken, he paid no further heed to Shang Bei and quickened his pace forward, before suddenly turning his head to look at Shang Bei, “Ah right, where is the field camp?”

Shang Bei fell silent. Sky Beyond Heaven’s Sir Xing Zhi, his temper..... really..... is unique.

~~~

The sunlight rocked along with the swing of the green leaves. The breeze was cool, the scent of herbs waffling through the air. She slowly sat up to see an azure clothed white man, rocking leisurely on the rocking chair. This sound perfectly finished the tranquil scene.

The rocking chair slowly stopped. The man turned his head to look at her, quietly looking at her, “What’s wrong? Hungry?”

“No.” Her usually straight back was hunched, bending over slightly. Her lips forced a smile, “I’m only..... Tired.”

Her head felt hot. A warm palm rubbed her head gently, “Rest. It’ll be okay.”

“En.”

She quietly closed her eyes. However, she quickly opened them once again, her arm reaching out only to grab emptiness, “Wait!”. Chen Li woke up. Her body was aching painfully, and her left hand clutched her the wound on her shoulder tightly. She couldn’t help but moan in pain.

“K-King? King, what’s the matter?”

Chen Li fixed her gaze on the speaker. A small soldier was looking at her in shock, almost in a panic. She disregarded him for now and looked at her surroundings, discovering that she was lying down on a bed within one of the field camp’s tents. The pain wracking her body was so intense that it felt as if her body would fall apart at any given moment. She didn’t even need to look down to know that her body must’ve been wrapped with bandages like a mummy! Although she knew that she should’ve been quietly recuperating, Chen Li just couldn’t stay still after seeing the memories flow in her dreams.

“Help me up.”

The little soldier hurriedly raised his hand, “King, cannot. That... ... that person has said you cannot move around heedlessly.”

Deciding this and that, it must be the dumb army doctor. Chen Li secretly disdained him, but didn’t continue to force him, but instead asked, “Do you have the statistics on how many soldiers perished in duty? Did you send off the souls of the deceased? How is General Mo Fang’s injury doing?” Being shot with these rapid-fire questions one after another, the little soldier began to grow panicked and rushed to the exit, leaving a call, “I will hurry and notify the General!”

Chen Li slammed her fist against the bed unhappily, “It’s not like I’ll eat you! Hsssh!..... Ow.... pain....”

“Ah.”

A laugh suddenly sounded from somewhere outside, causing Chen Li to feel startled, unable to even see who it was from inside the tent. She frowned, about to make an inquiry about the speaker when the flap leading in opened, revealing Mo Fang who was also covered in bandages tip to toe. He entered, leaning on his walking stick to slowly shuffle to Chen Li. When he saw Chen Li with her eyes open, he breathed a sigh of relief, finally letting loose of all the tension in his heart before speaking, “King.... Are you okay?”

For a moment, Chen Li was surprised before quickly smiling, and said: “Mo Fang, these words should also be asked to you.” Chen Li looked at him, his bandaged body cutting him as a rather sorry

figure. Her own body covered by bandages ached in response. Suddenly, she smiled, “I just remembered, a few days ago, the me who was quarreling with the Demon Emperor had previously said that the Sky Beyond Heaven was nothing great, and just sealed in a few demonic beasts. He even wanted us to guard that Space-Time Rip seal for them! Now experiencing it myself, I really want to curse my own stupidity! In that Space-Time Rip, it was only a little beast! Inside, there must’ve been thousands more, far worse, but they’re all sealed up! He truly does deserve the 3 realms respect, ah!”

Chen Li has not yet finished settling her feelings when she saw Mo Fang suddenly throw his walking stick to the side and bow down lowly as he kneeled. Ignoring all the risks of agitating his wound further, he prostrated himself in front of Chen Li, “Causing the King to have such a serious wound, Mo Fang deserves to be damned.”

Chen Li was startled but then fell silent, her demeanor turning entirely cold. Her voice was crisp, “In accordance to your own argument, this King must deserve to die, and even 10,000 deaths would not suffice for my previous mistake. These brothers who have died together in the battlefield is because I have not protected them well enough. They have lost everything, including their own lives and future.”

“It naturally cannot be blamed on the King!” Mo Fang raised his head, “Fighting and executing the demonic beast, it was the King’s merit! How could they blame it on.....”

At this, Chen Li sighed. Her voice was gentle as she said, “As

such, get up. No one can blame you for this incident.”

The rims of Mo Fang’s eyes heated up. He bit his lip tightly and lightly knocked his forehead onto the ground. For a very long time, he didn’t raise his head even a little bit. “King is unclear.... It is Mo Fang that cannot forgive himself.” When he was awake and found out of Chen Li’s wound and the coma she fell into, he was frantic, rushing to her. Seeing her covered in wounds, her breathing faint and almost unnoticeable, he..... Mo Fang fell quiet.

“You are injured. So, I cannot forgive myself.”

Hearing him say those words so suddenly, Chen Li sucked in a breath of cold air, starting at Mo Fang, “Mo Fang, you..... You cannot....”

“Within Mo Fang’s heart, King has always been there.”

Since slaughtering through enemy lines and obtaining her first merit, Chen Li never had the same appearance as a normal woman of the Demonic Realm, had never understood what feelings other normal women of the Demonic Realm felt. But one day, when she wore an embroidered skirt, one of the feudal lords, sized her up with a panic-stricken look before shouting: F\*\*\*! Before running away in extreme fear. Since then, she had never touched a woman’s garments again. But today, seeing a man from the Demonic Realm express his feelings to her, Chen Li only felt shock and disbelief, “..... You.... It must be that the toxins from the fox made it up to your brain, making you confused right?”

“Mo Fang’s head is very clear.” Looking as if he wanted Chen Li to directly cut open his heart to take a look at his feelings, Mo Fang decided to speak frankly, “Mo Fang likes the King. Mo Fang likes Chen Li.”

Chen Li’s breath was stuck in her chest, almost choking. But seeing Mo Fang’s clenched jaw and determined expression, Chen Li’s face sunk, solemnly speaking to him, “Out of the question.” Mo Fang raised his head to look at her, but only saw her grim face, “This is not good. I want you eliminate this sentiment and eradicate those thoughts. This is a military order.”

Mo Fang fell into silence once again. Finally, his jaw clenched and he kowtowed lowly, “Yes.”

At this moment, although inside the tent it was silent, Shang Bei’s flurried shouts could be heard suddenly from the outside, “Ah!..... God Xing Zhi Sire, don’t go in now, ai!”

“Why?” When this word was spoken, a slender finger brushed the entrance of the tent, opening it. Chen Li fixed her eyes on the entrance. Against the light, a white silhouette was just craning its head around to speak with someone behind it. His long robe dragged, giving the people of the Demonic Realm a rather cumbersome impression. However, it is this cumbersome display that gives off the sense of aloofness, a disdain from worldly affairs.

“This, this.....” Through the small crack, General Shang Bei managed to see that it was silent as Mo Fang kneeled in front of Chen Li, head bent. He sighed reluctantly, “Forget about it, it’s nothing.”

As Sir Xing Zhi slowly walked inside the tent, Chen Li's face became somewhat stupid. Before she fell into her earlier coma, she had walked towards that white figure, that man. Earlier she had thought it was just an illusion, but it truly was her "Xing Yun".

"You....."

Upon seeing Shang Bei come in and grab him, Mo Fang hurriedly got up from the floor. He clutched his hands tightly, only to sense that it was covered with cold sweat. Icy cold sweat. Shang Bei gently sighed in his heart, then turning to talk with Chen Li, "King, this is Sky Outside Heaven, Sir God Xing Zhi, who came to reinforce the seal on the Space-Time Rip."

"Xing Zhi.... Sir God?" Chen Li struggled to get up, but Xing Zhi stepped forward and gently pushed her body down, "The wounds will reopen."

"Have you ever been in the mortal realm?" Chen Li asked, "You don't know Xing Yun?"

Xing Zhi just pulled the quilt over Chen Li's body, his words holding a sense of indifference, "Do not know." He took out Chen Li's wrist that was tucked inside the quilt, softly measuring on her pulse. After a long while, he finally said: "Your breathing is much steadier."

Chen Li was still as she looked at him. The 2 pairs of eyes met. Xing Zhi smiled faintly, "The long famous Azure Sky King is truly

brave, fierce. Seeing her now, your heroic spirit really makes one admire you. But no matter how good the foundation, it won't do if you act recklessly. So, I ask King for the sake of her people, to take care of your own body."

A foreigner's greeting was said so interestingly, and quite pleasant to listen to as well. Chen Li's eyes twinkled, but she immediately vanished it. Her expression turned peaceful, "Thank you for your troubles, Sir God."

He is not Xing Yun.

When comparing facial features, Xing Zhi's seemed much more sharp, his figure was taller, and had a cold air around him that Xing Yun didn't. Xing Yun's temperament was indifferent but still treated everybody with fair etiquette. But this man, looking at his conduct, was used to ruling and oppressing others year-round.

"Also, I have to be here for quite some time. I haven't come here for millennia, and don't know what has changed around here. So first I need to explore the area to get a general layout of the topography before I enter the Space-Time Rip ruin. At that time, I must have King guide me around.

Hearing what was said, all 3 people in the tent were startled. Shang Bei said, "Sir God, if you need someone to guide you around, then the soldiers within the army are all very familiar with the topography of this land, and I'm sure they can serve you in some way. Right now, King is seriously injured, and I'm afraid she'll have to rest for quite some time."

“General does not need to worry. I myself will be personally taking care of King’s health. In no less than 3 days, she will be able to move around freely. There is no harm for her to lead me around, and activity is also helpful to her physical and mental health.”

Mo Fang frowned, “This humble one wishes to substitute for King to lead Sir God around the area.”

Xing Zhi’s gaze leisurely fell onto Mo Fang. As he looked at him, Xing Zhi smiled lightly, “No, I’ll have her lead the way.” Seeing Mo Fang’s fists clenching tightly, the curve on his lips grew. Chen Li hurriedly spoke up, “Well then, thank you for your care during the next 3 days.”

“It’s decided upon.”

Leaving Chen Li’s tent, Shang Bei took Mo Fang to another nearby tent. Xing Zhi walked alone in the field camp. Moving by a tent, he suddenly saw a little soldier staring at him in alarm. Pondering, he turned around and looked at him. The soldier immediately tried to run away: “Halt.” Xing Zhi called him. The small soldier immediately stopped moving. Xing Zhi arrived by his side and gently rapped the side of his head. “Forget.”

A picture flashed in the little soldier’s mind unexpectedly. He entered King’s tent to pack up the supplies but was surprised to find a white figure sitting by King’s bed.

“Tired....”

“Rest.” He touched the King’s head. “It’ll be okay.”

Suddenly aware someone came in, the man in white turned his head. He put his index finger on his lips, making a gentle “shh!” sound. His figure disappeared. Suddenly, the King woke up, shouting loudly, “Wait!!”

The little soldier opened his eyes and saw a white-clothed figure pass by him. He gave him a somewhat fuzzy impression, but he couldn’t remember it clearly. The little soldier scratched his head, feeling a little confused, but he also couldn’t say where he was confused. He just gazed at his departing back, before suddenly remembering that he needed to pack up the supplies in King’s tent!

# Chapter 22:

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Xing Zhi took apart the fine steel brace binding Chen Li's arm and pushed down on some acupuncture points, performing his role with utmost care when he suddenly heard Chen Li ask, "You said that a millennia ago, you left 4 things that you had used to create the Space-Time Rip's seal. But the soldiers that were guarding these ruins for years had no knowledge of it at all. Do you remember where you put them?"

"En, one on the mountain peaks, another in the bottom of a lake... ..." As Xing Zhi replied, his hands let go of her arm. "Move your arm."

Sitting on the cot, Chen Li obediently followed Xing Zhi's orders. At first, she slowly bent her arm gently, but upon discovering no pain, she began to roll her arm in big circles. Chen Li couldn't help but feel absolutely shocked at the speed of her recovery. Normally if she got such a terrible injury, it would at least half a month to heal. Xing Zhi really had cured her in 3 days!

"Well, it doesn't seem to have any serious problems." Xing Zhi grabbed her palm, but Chen Li subconsciously pulled her hand out. He looked at her, puzzled. Seeing this, Chen Li coughed loudly, "Was that necessary?"

Xing Zhi only chuckled, "The mighty Azure Sky King, is unexpectedly so shy." He bluntly grabbed Chen Li's hand and interlocked their fingers. "I just wanted to check the joints on your left hand. Hold my hand tightly."

Hearing what was said, Chen Li abruptly rose her head to glare at Xing Zhi angrily. But after only seeing the usual calm look on his face, she lowered her eyes quietly. Noticing that she didn't raise any ruckus, Xing Zhi felt quite strange. "Where are you ill?"

"..... Nowhere." Chen Li massaged her forehead, "I was just worried that if I used even just a bit of force, your hand might crumble to pieces."

This time, Xing Zhi's face was the one to turn somewhat stupid. Then with a smile, he said, "King can be at ease. If my hand were to crumble to pieces, it would be my own fault."

His words seemed to wake Chen Li up. She finally remembered that the one who sat before her was Sir God Xing Zhi of the Sky Beyond Heaven, who had no sickly body, not the same mortal that can die from a mere pinch to the hand. She had repeatedly reminded herself in her heart that they were 2 different people, but looking at their striking resemblance, and their exceedingly rare smiles, it was far too difficult for Chen Li to resist. She facepalmed, her heart filled with endless frustration.

"En, good." Xing Zhi spoke almost instantly, "You've healed up very well." He took his hand back, "So now, King should go and tidy up before leading me around in the afternoon."

"Going this afternoon?"

"The evening is good as well."

“No, the afternoon is fine.”

Ah..... She was unconsciously suppressed by him. Chen Li thought, that this Sir God Xing Zhi was seriously difficult to deal with.

“The only mountain here is south of the military compounds. Although it has been somewhat useless for the past year, a few centuries ago it blocked the harmful miasma from spreading across the Demonic Realm. Today we left rather late, so we won’t have enough time to go to the lake. For now, we’ll just visit the mountain.” Chen Li took the map from the soldier and earnestly studied it as she gave directions to Xing Zhi.

But behind her, Xing Zhi was incessantly smoothing out his long robes and didn’t hear a thing. Chen Li struggled to restrain her temper, and could only repeat herself, “Sir God, we’ll go to see the mountain first.”

“En.” Xing Zhi just grabbed the ends of his robe and just used his fingertip to cut off the too-long hem, tossing it behind him conveniently. The pure white silk hem flew in the winds, fluttering in the miasma far, far away. “Let’s go.”

Chen Li didn’t move as her eyes followed the silken hem. In the Demonic Realm, even the Demon Emperor himself couldn’t wear clothes of that quality. But this guy, he had actually just thrown it away so easily. Chen Li turned her head to look at Xing Zhi’s newly made short robe. Even though he’d been in the Demonic Realm for more than a few days, she had never seen it even a little dirty. Thinking back to the day she had mistaken him for Xing Yun, she

had wiped blood all over his robes, but it had already been washed with water the next day.

Thinking of the filth the soldiers had to endure by the boundary, Chen Li's head hung. Such unfairness, it really makes one feel as if they had a fish bone stuck in their throat.

Seeing Chen Li so still, Xing Zhi felt very confused, "What?"

"Nothing." Chen Li just shook her head, continued to walk without another word.

It was the afternoon. The fog on the mountain was dense, and adding on the thickly accumulated miasma made it near impossible to see anything more than 5 steps away, even during the day. Chen Li looked at the directions on the map as she used her other hand to snap any branches that got in her way. But the branches were already so fragile from the miasma, that even the slightest touch would have caused it to crumble away.

"We are currently close to the field camp, but rather far away from the Space-Time Rip, so the soldiers don't come here often. As such, they aren't very familiar with this place so the map only displays around half the mountain. If we were to directly fly up, the mountain's fog and miasma would prevent us from seeing anything. That means that we can only find the trail up the mountain ourselves." But when Chen Li finished speaking, she waited but no one answered back. Confused, she turned around only to see thick mist and a hazy outline of Xing Zhi's silhouette.

Chen Li gawked, and blinked her eyes. It has been said that during the battle against the Scorpion Tailed Fox, the Ancient God was late because he had gone the wrong way..... Could it be that he got lost?

“Sir God Xing Zhi?” Chen Li walked back, “Sir God?”

Chen Li did not walk very long before she realized the air had somewhat changed. Her heart beat faster as her footsteps quickened. A cool breeze blew over her, shooing away the thick fog before her eyes. On the other side, a heavenly immortal clothed in white slowly walked. Wherever he stepped, the miasma that accumulated for more than hundreds of years seemed to be washed away by new rain. Although you still couldn’t see any green plants, the air was clean.

Chen Li stared at him blankly. White robes danced in the air as a gentle breeze swept past. The brilliant light that he emitted within the gray Demonic Realm imprinted itself onto Chen Li’s eyes, her heart gone of the negative emotions it once held.

This is.... The Ancient God.

With an inborn intelligent nature and kind-hearted disposition to wage battle against the evil gods of the Demonic Race, no matter how filthy the air, it could still be washed away cleanly....

Clothes fluttered and poked her gently. Xing Zhi walked up to her in a few steps and asked, “Where do we go now?”

In a blink of an eye, Chen Li instantly regained conscious. She was about to reach over and take out the map, but suddenly, pain shot up her left foot. Her hand slid down, the map flying away from her hands as it flew through the air, disappearing amidst the fog. She was about to jump down to go find it when she suddenly felt something restraining her. Chen Li turned her head to see a small wild boar, it's head with 4 ears, nipping at her leg. Although it didn't actually hurt, due to the delay, there was no way for her to find the map.

Her heart burned with urgency. She bent her waist to grab the little boar that was curling up on its tail to slap it's butt maliciously. "What a hindrance!"

The wild boar was in a panic as it squirmed around in her hand. A pair of beady red eyes locked onto Chen Li's as it growled maniacally. Xing Zhi frowned, "It's been polluted by the miasma and changed into an evil spirit. Put it down, I'll burn it."

"No need." Chen Li's arm swung and the little boar was flung back into the woods. It screeched as it fled, panicked, leaving no traces behind. "Although the miasma changed them into evil spirits, they themselves are still mostly animal. Their attacks aren't strong, and even the common people can easily deal with them." Using her memory, Chen Li found the same path that they took earlier. As she hiked the trail, she said, "It's not easy for them to survive in this kind of terrain. They didn't do anything wrong, so slaughtering them is too unreasonable. Even if they do commit sins later on, they can be still stopped and punished then."

Xing Zhi was startled and closely sized up Chen Li's back, "So the

Azure Sky King is actually kind-hearted, ah.” The dark mood in his eyes settled down and he followed Chen Li. “But I personally prefer to eliminate the source before it grows more troublesome.” He paused, eyes fixed closely on Chen Li.

“Those words.....” Chen Li glanced back at him, but she didn’t notice the strange mood in Xing Zhi’s eyes. Her lips hooked, her smile revealing uninhibited self-confidence. “Then today, it won’t be quite so boring.”

For a moment, Xing Zhi was silent but suddenly smiled. “It is quite boring today.”

The more they walked forward, the more lost they became. Looking at the darkening sky, Chen Li couldn’t help but grow somewhat agitated. Xing Zhi stopped and spoke up, “To have the moonlight look after us is quite good.” He looked as if he was merely taking a walk in his own backyard. Watching, Chen Li knew it wasn’t good to urge him and just slowly walked along with Xing Zhi on the barren hills.

The sky unknowingly grew darker as they walked. The withered tree grew thickly on the mountain path. Suddenly, Chen Li’s eyes grew wide with shock. The moon was above them, large and bright, making her jaw drop in admiration. In the Demonic Realm, how long they have not seen such beautiful moonlight.

“The mountain peak. We’ve arrived, let’s climb up.” Xing Zhi walked out from behind her. His white robes and figure that gleamed in the moonlight left a clear outline in Chen Li’s eyes. He slowly walked forward. Xing Zhi stopped in front of the thick

withered tree.

Looking closely, Chen Li saw that this tree that grew on the summit was different than the others. Although it was also brittle and dry, leaves grew on the branches, dancing beautifully in the wind, rustling with the desire to fall.

Xing Zhi's hand stretched forward to touch the tree trunk. The shriveled tree resembled the sound of weeping. The trunk trembled with grief along with the lamenting of the earth. Xing Zhi's facial features lowered, half sighing, half comforting them. "It was hard for you. Thank you for your trouble." White light rippled from his palm, pouring into the dead wood, following its roots into the earth. Chen Li could almost see the earth under her nearly leap up with joy and glory.

The mountain trembled, as if it's soul has awakened with boundless knowledge, the fog disappearing completely. Chen Li stood on the edge of the cliff, gazing down at the mountain. She discovered that the same road they've walked was now illuminated with beams of light. The light seemed to print out a character, leaning on the trail. It was: "Mountain".

The moonlight, the dead tree, they all had this same character. The light seemed to penetrate inside them, purifying all traces of corrosive miasma.

From the beginning, he had calculated it so well. In the afternoon, he'd drew the character "Mountain" on the trails, and with the power of the moonlight, he purified the mountain of the miasma and awakened the item he had used for the Space-Time

Rip's seal. Such comprehensive arrangements and all still didn't reveal a single hint of his plans.

This man...

"Azure Sky King." Xing Zhi beckoned to her under the tree. Chen Li's heart was cautious as she walked up, but was surprised to see him go on his tiptoes to pick something from the tree. He handed Chen Li a long, green leaf, and smiled. "The Demonic Realm sprouts are quite long."

Chen Li had a blank look as she accepted it, caressing the cool leaf. Her heart held a feeling she didn't quite understand. This Demonic Realm leaf, how the fresh, green color sparkled with liveliness. How wonderful it'd be if the young children of the Demonic Realm could see such a leaf. Her eyes were soft, a gentle smile on her lips. Chen Li was so focused on stroking the leaf that she didn't notice the man beside her who looked at her softly, a silent, gentle smile on his lips.

"Do you want to sit in the tree for a while?"

Chen Li wore a somewhat foolish expression on her face, "Can I?". She pointed at the tree trunk, not daring to touch it. "It won't break?"

Xing Zhi laughed, amused, "I'll compensate if it breaks."

He hugged Chen Li's waist, and 2 people sat on the coarse, strong

tree. Moonlight shone on the leaves, making them grow denser and more vibrant. Chen Li stared at the branches as new leaves slowly grew out, and couldn't help but feel moved. "Truly wonderful." She said, "They look like they're singing."

Hearing what was said, Xing Zhi easily plucked a thin leaf and placed it between his lips. A beautiful, melodious tone flew out from his mouth. Chen Li looked back, pleasantly surprised. Watching him blow with such ease, she too grabbed a leaf and studied his technique. But when she tried to blow it, the leaf that was in her mouth fiercely flew out, and like an arrow, jabbed deep inside the earth!

"Ah!!" The music on the tree stopped. Chen Li looked at Xing Zhi and narrowed her eyes. "Sir God, are you laughing at me?"

"No, I just thought..." Xing Zhi looked up at the night sky and smiled, "The moon today is beautiful."

# Chapter 23:

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The fresh, mountain wind blew into the field camp, sweeping away the miasma, revealing bright moonlight. The soldiers raised their heads to the moon, one after another exclaiming in shock. Some people carried out the wounded, allowing them to admire the sight. This whole, bright moon was something they've always coveted but never got.

Mo Fang sat calmly on the stone training platform, both eyes staring at the shining character printed on the mountain. He looked quietly.

“Hold.” Suddenly, a pot of liquor was unexpectedly thrown into his arms. Shang Bei leaped high into the training platform before sitting by Mo Fang. “The wounded shouldn’t drink, so I diluted it with some water, hehe.”

Mo Fang grabbed the pot and shook it, “I don’t drink. Mistakes will happen.”

“Whether you drink or not, just take it.” Shang Bei raised his head and filled his cup with the liquor, turning his head to look closely at Mo Fang, “Do you still think that Sir God Xing Zhi was bullying little King?” Mo Fang didn’t reply. Shang Bei laughed, “That Sir God’s temper truly is quite odd, but if you look, you can sense a clean aura around him. If King was not King today, and if it was you or me that was chosen, then I’m afraid our legs would’ve long gone soft from his pure aura alone.”

Mo Fang nodded. How could he not understand this truth? Even if he wasn't thinking clearly at that time, looking at this round, glowing moon now, his heart understood Sir God Xing Zhi's consideration for them. But Mo Fang didn't care about this, he was worried about...

"Oh, now that I think of it, the moon has been out for so long, so they should've been long gotten whatever they needed to get. But then why isn't little King and Sir God back yet?"

Mo Fang clutched the pot of liquor and silently unplugged the opening. He took a heavy gulp, using alcohol to drown his sorrows. With the first swallow, his lips were tightly sealed. On the second swallow, his mouth relaxed. On the third, a pink, hazy blush spread to his cheeks. Shang Bei laughed mischievously, thinking: not bad. He looked away, repeatedly reminding himself in his heart to speak tactfully, but still, his mouth couldn't help but open and ask, "In the end, what part of little King do you like, ah?" After speaking, Shang Bei pulled on his own two cheeks.

But at this time, the somewhat drunk Mo Fang only looked at the moon and muttered like he was talking to himself, "Where I like? There's no place I don't like..."

Hearing this, Shang Bei was startled and scratched his head with a sigh. "This is really bad."

Suddenly, a white light streaked across the sky, falling into the field camp. Mo Fang hurriedly got up to take a look, bypassing the tents only to see Xing Zhi pluck off a slender leaf that was stuck on Chen Li's head. Chen Li impolitely snatched the leaf back from his

hands, and said, “Some other day, I will surely blow out a tune for you to listen.”

Xing Zhi smiled. “Then I await your good news.” He turned and left. Chen Li too didn’t linger and turned around to leave as well. But as she turned, from the corner of her eyes, she saw a glimpse of Mo Fang’s robe. Chen Li’s walked, her voice calling out. “Mo Fang.”

Mo Fang’s head drooped down as he walked out. Chen Li was silent for a moment, and spoke, “When I came here, I didn’t notify the Demon Emperor. It’d be better for you to go to the Demon Emperor first, and give a report of the incident. The earlier you go, the better it’ll be for the recovery of your wound.”

This..... She wants him to leave... Mo Fang clenched his teeth and knelt down on one knee. “Yes.”

Chen Li opened her mouth, noticing the smell of alcohol coming off his body. At first, she wanted to reprimand him for drinking despite having such serious injuries, but now that the situation is already like this, it would be better for her to not say anything. She turned her head and returned to her tent, leaving Mo Fang kneeling there. He didn’t get up for a very long time.

The next day, Chen Li watched as Mo Fang left the field camp. She sighed in her heart, even in thousands of years, it was very rare to find somebody who liked her, nevermind brave enough to confess their feelings. However, the time was not right. If she was to like somebody, she will give all that she can give to that one person. What the future may hold, Chen Li doesn’t know. But,

right now, Xing Yun is still in her heart. Although Xing Yun had already passed away, she still would not be able to like anybody else at this time because it would be equivalent to betraying her former heart. At the moment, she was unworthy of another person's love.

In addition... Chen Li's head ached, only sighing in the end. It also wasn't Immortal Fu Rong fault.

As Chen Li looked up at the clear sky, her heart couldn't help but relax a little. Today, she's leading Sir God Xing Zhi to another one of the seals. Then, the sky will become clearer and the soldiers here would become even happier as well. Her lips hooked up as she leaned on the fence. It's been so long since she looked forward to something.

It was already quite far into the day when Xing Zhi finally arrived, who walked lazily to her. Chen Li forced her temper down and asked him, "Might Sir God know what the time is?"

Xing Zhi ignored her jabs, instead of asking in a soft voice, "Have you blown out a tune yet?"

Chen Li's face stiffened as she recalled how she had blasted the leaf into the wood last night. She coughed and changed the topic, "Let us talk about formal matters first. Yesterday, you said where 2 of the sealing items were hidden. We've already gotten the one on the mountain peak, so, today, we'll be going to the lake bottom. Yesterday's purification has made the clouds much more distinct, so now we can harness the power of the clouds to go to the lake instead."

“En.”

Unlike yesterday’s, today’s trip to the lake was much smoother. But when they reached the lake, Chen Li couldn’t help but frown. Year by year, the lake has been absorbing miasma from the air, causing the water to turn into a muddy, turbid brown. This, rather than calling it lake water, it would be much more accurate to call it a quagmire. Xing Zhi looked as if he didn’t notice the water’s filthy state, just turning his head to call Chen Li, “Let’s go down.”

Chen Li gawked at him, stunned as her eyes inspected him closely. “Go down?” She hurriedly shook her head, “We can’t. The soldier that usually patrols here never went down. Without a map, I also can’t help you get down there. Sir God must venture down there by himself. I’ll be waiting for you onshore.”

Xing Zhi asked Chen Li, smiling, “Can King swim?”

Chen Li was born with an innate disliking of water, and, as such, it is unlikely for her to succeed at learning any magical arts that have to do with water. Naturally, she cannot swim as well. Nevermind this pond that you couldn’t even see the bottom of, even the small pond in Xing Yun’s courtyard was enough to drown her. Usually, Chen Li hated exposing weaknesses in front of others, but in order to help right now, she had no choice. “Cannot.”

“Water evading techniques?”

“No.”

Xing Zhi nodded. Chen Li obediently stepped back, planning to wait for him when she suddenly heard him say, “So, I can only hold you.”

“What?” Chen Li was baffled, “Wait a minute!” Without waiting for Chen Li to refuse, Xing Zhi’s fingers moved and she could only see darkness. However, her ears could still hear a “gululu” sound, the sound of bubbles. Knowing that they’re in the water, Chen Li’s heart tightened, the palm of her hands pushing up against a warm body. At this time with no other choice, Chen Li gripped onto Xing Zhi’s hands tightly. She felt suffocated, her whole body stiff from fear.

“There’s no need to be so nervous.” Xing Zhi’s faint voice sounded in front of her. “Just breathe normally like you do on land. My water evading technique won’t be easily blown apart by you.”

Having heard what was said, Chen Li hesitantly took a breath. Once she realized that she actually didn’t breathe in water, Chen Li took a big sigh of relief. Rest assured, she breathed normally. But after her nervousness disappeared, what was left in Chen Li’s heart was irrepressible anger. “How could you be so unreasonable!”

“Don’t let go of my hand, or else my water evading techniques will become useless for you.”

Hearing this, although her heart was filled with fury, Chen Li still obediently gripped his hand. Her mouth was still dissatisfied

as she shouted, “I can only see darkness, so what did you drag me into the water for! Let me go up!”

“Because I’m too scared to go alone.”

A sentence of understated words were spoken in front of her, causing Chen Li choke, not knowing what to say. She continued to choke for a long time and silently cursed. You, an old man that has lived in the Sky Outside Heaven for who knows how many years, in Heaven and Earth, what storms have you not seen! Still scared of a little pond? You’re just having fun teasing me, ah!

But remembering that glowing character on the mountain yesterday, Chen Li was sure that this man has a plan in mind, a good reason for dragging her inside the pond. Thus, she kept these thoughts in mind as she followed behind Xing Zhi with incomparable vigilance. That was, until Xing Zhi’s footsteps came to a halt, speaking in a soft voice, “At last.” Throughout the whole trip, nothing had happened at all.

Chen Li’s felt rather confused. Suddenly, a flash of light ran past the corner of her eye. She fixed her eyes on the object to see a strange, stone shaped figure rushing out from the blue light. It landed on Xing Zhi’s palm, resembling a summit. He softly closed his eyes and started to repeat incantations that Chen Li couldn’t understand. All the water around them began to shake and tremble. Suddenly, part of the small stone figure crumbled to dust, revealing transparent, crystalline lenses inside. The crystal clear light caused Chen Li’s eyes to tingle with pain. More and more dust fell from the small stone figure, revealing a translucent, frozen icicle!

With the injection of Xing Zhi's power, Chen Li could feel the water turning colder and colder. Inside the icicle, it looked as if the water was constantly stirring. Suddenly, the currents of water within the icicle broke out from its top point, gushing straight up the lake. The limpid, clear water gushed out from the icicle unceasingly, making the jet black, thick, viscous lake water gradually turn clean and translucent.

Chen Li raised her head in the water, watching as the sun's warmth spread through the bottom of the lake, her tense heart enjoying a rare moment of tranquillity. The constantly gushing water from the icicle was like a newfound spring in her heart, washing away all traces of suspicion and wariness.

“Later, the lake can have fish.”

“Naturally.”

Chen Li turned her head back to look at Xing Zhi, “Isn’t there still 2 more seals here? Where is it? Quickly, find them.”

“The other two, you don’t need to worry about.” Xing Zhi gently patted the icicle, appearing to comfort it. He pulled on Chen Li’s hand to go back, “One is in the field camp, within the earth, under the stone training platform. In a moment when we get back, you can command the soldiers to leave while we get the seal. Another one is on the fine gold chains in the ruins. It’s very close to the Space-Time Rip.”

So actually, he already knew where he'd placed the seals... Chen Li mulled it over, muttering, "The mountain summit's seal was wood, the lake bottom is water, under the stone training platform is earth, near the Space-Time Rip, is gold. Out of the 5 elements, there's only 4." She frowned, "Isn't there still fire? If the 5 elements are incomplete, then the Vast Doubled Seal may not be able to fully display its power."

Xing Zhi smiled, "After I get the other 2 seals, then I myself will be going alone to get the last 'fire' seal. King can rest assured since Xing Zhi has come here, you can be sure that the boundary will be left completely purified." He turned to go, but suddenly his clothes got hooked onto the icicle. Xing Zhi subconsciously lets go of Chen Li's hand to fix his robes. He looked back to see Chen Li's raised eyebrow as she looked at her hands, before turning to glance at him.

Xing Zhi was surprised and shook his head, laughing, "Exposed." Thinking that she was going to scold him, he looked up to see Chen Li's stunned eyes. His lips hooked up into a thin smile as he continued to walk. "Let's go back."

## Chapter 24:

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According to Xing Zhi, one of the remaining two seals, representing ‘earth’ was buried under the training platform. Chen Li ordered all the soldiers within the field camp to retreat a 3-mile radius from the platform. She was about to turn around and leave as well when Xing Zhi stopped her. “Awakening the seal will take a long time, and if I cannot be interrupted. Therefore you need to guard by my side. Don’t let people bother me.”

All the soldiers already retreated 3 miles away, and besides, who even dares to disturb you.... Chen Li opened her mouth to retaliate, but then forcefully choked her words back into her stomach. She silently stood aside as Xing Zhi laid his palm on the earth. Similar to the other two seals, it soon began to glow with brilliant light. The ground trembled beneath her, but this time, Chen Li paid no attention to her surroundings. She only gazed at Xing Zhi’s face, an unknown emotion settling within her jet-black eyes.

The dry, sandy yellow soil gradually grew moist. Wiffts of grass slowly grew by the edges of the tents, the air turning clean and pure. But unlike the other 2 times, Chen Li didn’t feel at peace. This time, the air made it seem much harder to breathe.

But since it was only felt for a mere moment, Chen Li simply ignored it. When Xing Zhi finished, her black eyes moved subtly as she turned around to leave, “My matters in the Space-Time Rip Ruins are finished, so I’ll be heading back to receive my punishment.”

Xing Zhi watched her calm silhouette walk away, eyes staring.

~~~

When Chen Li had killed the Scorpion-Tailed Fox, the Space-Time Rip was still quite far away so she never truly had the chance to see it herself. So when Chen Li raised her head to see huge, black slit that extended through the horizon, she could not help but stare, shocked dumb. Rich, black miasma unceasingly gushed out of the ginormous slit. However, with 3 of the seals awakened, the miasma was constantly suppressed, disintegrated before it could escape the crevice. But even so, the nearby miasma was enough to oppress a person's heart. Without the seals, one can only imagine how terrible the situation would've become.

Heaven's Space Time Rip was very different from the Ice Sacrificial Palace, which was created naturally. The Space Time Rip was a space ripped out of another dimension by one person, and was turned into a cage. And in that cage, contains monsters several, or even hundreds of times stronger than that Scorpion Tailed Fox.

Chen Li's eyes turned serious as she moved her head slightly to see a figure slightly walking towards her, step by step. The miasma dense wind caused his robes and hair to fly wildly in the air, but even that could not change the unshakable calm and indifference in his stance.

Really.... A splitting image.

Suddenly, Chen Li felt a little lost. She turned to see Xing Zhi looking at the sky, a frown on his face. Chen Li asked keenly, “What happened?”

“Nothing, the situation’s just worse than I’d originally thought” Xing Zhi walked 2 steps forward and reached out with his hand, “But that won’t matter.” As he spoke, Chen Li could hear the earth below them rumble. A bright light jumped out of the crevice, abruptly flying into Xing Zhi’s outstretched palm.

Chen Li stared at the light, only to unexpectedly find that it was a steel chain covered by a thick layer of rust. One of its ends were held in Xing Zhi’s hand, the other deep inside the earth. His lips moved as he muttered incantations, his hand moving gently. The thick coat of rust had been shed away as the chain tightened up, becoming perfectly straight. A loud rumble sounded from deep inside the crevice, and both sides of the enormous black slit were chained together, blocking the miasma from escaping outwards. Without the miasma obstructing her view, Chen Li could see that the gigantic crevice was actually now only 2 feet long, and was even shrinking as it got pulled closer and closer together.

Suddenly, shrill screams cried out from the Space-Time Rip! Chen Li’s heart tensed up, quickly, she reached out her hands, summoning the Hongying Spear as it appeared in her hands in an instant. Her body was taut with caution. But Xing Zhi just smiled calmly, “Don’t be so anxious, they cannot come out.”

The screams didn’t stop, piercing cries continuously sounding from inside. All of a sudden, a loud “bang!” echoed, causing the surrounding earth to tremble unceasingly. Chen Li could

practically feel the killing intent swell violently, a millennium's worth of accumulated hatred, with a rampant desire to rush out and slaughter Xing Zhi this instant.

Chen Li frowned. The hand that held the Hongying spear was clenched so tightly that her knuckles had long since gone white. Xing Zhi shook the chain in his hands. A beast roared, it's crying sounding disturbingly similar to a human's. At first, it was faint, hardly discernible by the human ear. Xing Zhi chanted an incantation, his whole body radiating blinding light as the Space-Time Rip's trembling grew even more violent. Chen Li's heartbeat involuntarily sped up. It sounded as if the beast had broken through the seal, it's human like roar growling right next to her ear:

**“I WILL KILL THE GOD! MUST KILL THE GOD!”**

The mournful cry threw a person's heart into chaos like a magical spell. It burrowed itself through Chen Li's ears, continuously echoing inside her head, giving her a painful, splitting headache. Even though Chen Li tried, again and again, to act strong, she still couldn't help but clutch her head in pain. She closed her eyes, and when opened again, they had turned a deep crimson. The depths of her heart surged up with killing intent as she was filled with the desire for commotion; a blood-soaked commotion.

Xing Zhi's white robes fluttered in the wind. He didn't look back once as he chanted the last verse of his incantation. The stiff steel chain loosened, unleashing brilliant amounts of blinding lights as it sank into the ground. Shortly after, the light within the gap

shone even brighter. The shrill, deafening shrieks that came from the slit screamed one last time, finally quiet.

At the same time, a sliver of fresh air was sent through Chen Li's body, but it's violent energy made it very much different from the other sealings. The other times could be called a refreshing spring breeze, but this time it directly sank deep into her stomach. It openly collided with the uncontrollable killing intent in her body, forcing her to spit out a ball of black blood. It fell onto the earth, hissing as it boiled, quickly turning into a white cloud, not a thing left behind.

A frosty wind blew past. All was silent.

The enormous slit was now a mere 2 finger lengths from closing, and the sky was crystal clear. If one did not look closely, they would have no idea that it was actually Heaven's Space-Time Rip, storing many monsters even older than a millennium.

Chen Li felt stunned, "This is....."

Xing Zhi handed her a white handkerchief from somewhere inside his sleeve, "Contaminated miasma."

Chen Li felt a little stumped as she accepted the white handkerchief. She looked at it for a little while before slowly moving it to her own lips, wiping off the blood. She looked up to see Xing Zhi standing next to the Space-Time Rip, his hand gently caressing the steel chain now connecting the cliff, "When the Scorpion Tailed Fox swallowed you into his stomach, his body was

filled with miasma. Because you're a demon in human form, it's far easier to be corroded by the miasma in his body. Whenever I blessed a seal, I also used the excess energy to purify the miasma in your body."

Chen Li suddenly realized, "So that's the reason why you insisted on me guiding you around no matter what." She fixed her gaze on Xing Zhi, the light in her eyes dimming, "Is that the only reason?"

"En, only so."

Chen Li fell silent. Turning his head to look at Chen Li, he spoke flatly, "The last fire seal is inside the Space Time Rip. Since the corrupted miasma within King's body has been eliminated, there is no need for King to follow me in. King can return to tidy up the soldiers and the field camp. When I'm finished sealing the Space-Time Rip, I will go back to Heaven. From then, I will not inconvenience King again."

A wind blew between the two. The white handkerchief in her hand flying with it. She fixed her eyes on Xing Zhi. Her hands were clenched together in a bow, her bearing indifferent, but she still released a sense of estrangement. "Many thanks to Sir God for assisting the Demonic Realm." Words spoken, she turned around. Her hair following as it was thrown into an elegant arc, she departed without hesitation.

But because she didn't look back even once, she did not know that Xing Zhi had quietly turned his head, watching her disappear into the horizon.

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It was night, and the moon was bright. In the tent, Chen Li was tidying up her belongings. Just as she was preparing to sleep, she noticed somebody pacing outside her tent. She called out loudly, “Come in!”. Outside, the figure stiffened, before finally peeling back the flap to enter. When Shang Bei saw Chen Li, he wanted to be tactful, but still couldn’t help but blurt out his words, “Little King, you’re actually just letting Sir God Xing Zhi go?!”

Chen Li looked lightly into Shang Bei’s eyes, “If Sir God wants to go, how could I stop him?”

“Aiya!” Shang Bei stomped his feet in frustration, “If I’d known before, I would’ve long asked him myself!”

“What’s wrong?” Chen Li’s voice was cold and mocking, “It’s been no more than a few short days since he came, and you’ve already fallen in love with him?” Once she had spoken, even Chen Li herself was shocked by the words that had come out of her mouth. Shang Bei was equally startled, replying difficulty, “ Little King’s thoughts can really make one amazed. Shang Bei wouldn’t dare to have such thoughts. But our capital is plagued with miasma, so if King could guide Sir God around our Demonic Realm, even if the sky couldn’t be completely cleaned, it can at least let King be cleansed for a few days.” He then winced, “I... I also wanted to let my wife see the moon.”

Chen Li fell silent.

# Chapter 25:

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Chen Li fell silent.

After Shang Bei left, all of Chen Li's sleepiness had seemingly vanished. Alone, she quietly left her tent, strolling aimlessly around the field camp. Tomorrow, she as "King" would be leading the soldiers back into the capital, victorious. As a result, everybody was somewhat reluctant to waste the night and were all sitting outside their tents. Some were chatting, and others were drinking, but they were all envisioning how it'd be like if everywhere in the Demonic Realm was this pure. Chen Li just quietly walked away from them, her heart wondering if Xing Zhi had already left for Heaven. Walking out of the field camp, she looked up to gaze at the moon. She didn't know why, but she felt an inexplicable urge in her heart to go to Heaven's Space Time Rip.

The air here was already far cleaner than before. If it wasn't for the two chains shining faintly, Chen Li wouldn't have even been able to see the small, shrunken slit in between the earth.

Xing Zhi's already gone. As she reached out her hand to touch the pair of iron chains, Chen Li suddenly realised that she must've had some kind of problem with her brain! She knew that there wouldn't be anybody here, but still, she came running over anxiously. Chen Li smiled bitterly, pulling her hands away from the chain to leave. A wind came out of the crevice, blowing her hair to the side.

Chen Li felt alarmed, her nose sensing a strange smell. She frowned and looked at the crevice inside the darkness, the gust still

blowing out from it.

This smell.... Is familiar.

Chen Li pondered, but then suddenly, an eye opened from inside the crevice! Astonished, she tried to scramble back, but as she did, her ankle was grabbed! No matter how she struggled, it was now useless. That eye inside the earth glowed with strong emotions, revealing a crazed glee in its eyes.

Chen Li's combat experience was extremely rich, and despite her initial surprise, her mind quickly regained its former calm. With a wave of her hand, the Hongying spear was in her grip. It gleamed in the moonlight as it moved wickedly in Chen Li's hands, stabbing ruthlessly into the eye. But when she pierced she could tell that it was not flesh, but the muddy ground. She tried to tug out her spear only to feel a strong force tightly grabbing the spear.

Chen Li clenched her teeth, about to use her magic when the pulling on her ankle suddenly intensified. Without allowing her to alert anyone, her whole body was dragged into the slit.

The wind blew. Not a thing was left on the cliff.

~~~

Within the darkness, bits of pieces of voices echoed in Chen Li's ears noisily. No matter what Chen Li did, from blocking her ears, to sealing all 5 senses, the monster's voice still remained. It dug

deep into her mind, slowly making her lose all reason.

“Shut up.” Chen Li couldn’t help but snap, “Shut up!”

“Kill.....” This word, sometimes high and shrill, other times low and malicious. It slowly turned her world red, a scarlet red. A bloody red, as if she was slaughtering seamlessly like a dance in a battlefield, bringing death upon the appearance of her enemies. A boiling flame rose up in her chest and her eyes glowed crimson, her body emitting a red light. But suddenly, a cooling wave washed over her heart, flowing gently into her limbs as a pleasant feeling settled into her body. A gentle hand with the warmth of a sun gently stroked her head, “Cluck, cluck, why are you so angry?”

Angry? She’s always been restraining her anger far too much in that little courtyard...

“Chen Li?”

A voice called for Chen Li, awakening her as she slowly opened her eyes. In the darkness, the white robe that clad Xing Zhi’s body was all the more striking. Chen Li was stunned for a moment, but then averted her eyes as she looked at their surroundings. A tight frown was on her face, “Is this inside the Space-Time Rip?”

Xing Zhi smiled, “King is wise.”

“You..... Why is Sir God still here? The seal.....”

“The seal was remodeled successfully, but some of the demonic beasts spells were released outside.” He spoke bluntly, “It took many days worth of effort to refresh the seal, and I didn’t notice the loopholes they exploited. Miasma has polluted the Space-Time Rip for many years, so it’s not easy to purify it all at once. In the meanwhile, I’m taking a walk.”

This dark world, tainted with miasma, lived in by only the most fearsome Demonic Beasts... was actually just another place for him to take a walk in.... Originally Chen Li wanted to ask if he had any injuries, but hearing this, she couldn’t help but feel that her worries were completely unnecessary.

Xing Zhi just smiled and looked at Chen Li, “Did King also come to the Space-Time Rip to take a walk?”

Chen Li facepalmed, “No, I had no interest in doing so. However...” Her voice paused, “However, while I was patrolling with my soldiers and neared the Space-time Rip, some strange forced dragged me into here.”

“Ah, “ Xing Zhi touched his chin, thinking for a moment, “It can even drag you in. It seems like these damned beasts are actually more interesting than I thought.”

How could this be called interesting, ah!

Chen Li held a moment of silence. She looked up and down at Xing Zhi, “Does Sir God have a way to go out? I didn’t hide it from Sir God: Tomorrow, I must return back to the capital along with

General Shang Bei. If he can't find me in the morning, he'll definitely believe...." Her heart sighed, "Believe that I must've ran away to escape the marriage. There will definitely be a huge commotion."

"We can't go out now." Xing Zhi turned and slowly walked forward. In this pitch-black world, let alone words like "east", "west", "north", "south", even the earth they stood on was ambiguous. But even so, his steps were calm as if they were on solid ground, unconsciously leading Chen Li the direction forward. She followed his footsteps, speaking somewhat anxiously, "Sir God, I'm really not joking with you. We don't know how many days we've spent in the Space-Time Rip, so when we get out, it's highly probable that General Shang Bei has already left for the Capital. If he were to then report to the Demon Emperor that I've ran away again, I really will suffer!"

Although she admits her mistakes in coming here, to be punished for something she didn't do, was just something Chen Li couldn't accept.

Xing Zhi turned his head to look at Chen Li, his voice stern, "Am I a liar?"

Chen Li's voice was also stern, "The Great Lying God never lies."

Xing Zhi's face turned serious, "This time, we really can't get out."

"Teasing me must be very fun."

“Very fun indeed.” Seeing Chen Li’s forehead vein pulse in anger, Xing Zhi couldn’t resist chuckling as he asked, “Why do you think I’m lying to you?”

“Aren’t you always lying to me?!” Chen Li jumped up, accusing Xing Zhi, “You being unable to find your way through the Demonic Realm, you embracing me for your water evading techniques, was there really no other way? All these matters, in which are you not lying to me?”

Xing Zhi’s eyes twinkled, “As you say, it is like that.” He smiled, “But was it not to cleanse the miasma in King’s body? Little King really should learn how to show thanks, ah.”

Chen Li took a deep breath, forcefully holding back the evil intentions in her heart as her voice turned calm, “Many thanks to Sir God Xing Zhi for his grace. As of now, we ought to get out of here.”

Xing Zhi sighed, at last he has lost to Chen Li. He slowly extended his arm, previously hidden by his long, thick sleeves. Chen Li stared closely, discovering vicious, bloody indents on Xing Zhi’s right arm, the marks so grisly that one could not tell what made it. Sinister black miasma oozed from the wound, creating a terrible sight. Chen Li’s heart leapt as she stared at Xing Zhi in shock who withdrew his arm back into his robe, shaking his head helplessly, “You see, I didn’t want to frighten you.”

“This is...”

“While I was blessing the fire seal, I was careless and injured by one of the beasts. They wanted to interrupt me while I was blessing the seal, in an attempt to weaken the seal.” Xing Zhi said, “But what they didn’t know is that, now that it has been resealed, even if I were to die here, it wouldn’t weaken for thousands of years to come.”

Chen Li was startled as she listened to him explain, “The Space-Time Rip is a seal, but for such a grand seal, even the divine power of the ancient gods does not suffice to completely sustain it. So I, using the world’s power, the 5 elements, remodeled the Space Time Rip’s seal into a twin-layered seal. To do this, I chose to use the fire element I placed inside the Space Time Rip to force the two layers to merge together. This way, if someone tried to breach the seal, whether internal or external, it would not be easy for them, buying some time for the military to arrive. Second, relying on the world’s power lets it absorb the surrounding power in the area, making it much more stable for the long term. Even so, it’s not inexhaustible, and after these thousands of years, it’s gradually been depleted. That’s why I came here, to reinforce and supply the seal.”

“After remodeling the seal, it all depends on the world’s energy. It will follow its path, locking in the miasma.” Xing Zhi shook his arm, “So before the wound has healed, I cannot go out. As for you... ...” Xing Zhi spoke, “The miasma within your body has already been expelled, but miasma is everywhere in the Space-Time Rip. A demon’s body doesn’t possess the ability to purify the miasma as ours do, so it’s very easy for the miasma to invade a demon’s body. Although it has no effect on you, the seal won’t allow you out. If I didn’t have this injury, I would’ve been able to purify the miasma in your body so you could go back. But now.....”

In any case, she can't leave until his injury heals... Chen Li frowned, "This injury, how long until it's healed?"

Xing Zhi played it down, saying, "Soon, just a few walks and it'll will be fine." His words suddenly stopped as he recalled something. He smiled at Chen Li, "Don't be afraid. If we're late, I'll go back to the capital with you and explain to the Demon Emperor so you won't suffer any injustices."

He raised his hand, as if about to pat Chen Li's head, but then moved to the side, patting her shoulder as he smiled comfortingly.

Chen Li looked at his hands as he turned away. She wanted to stop the words from spilling out, but in the end, couldn't block the words in her heart. Chen Li shouted at his back, asking bluntly, "Does God know..... That when a god sleeps, their soul changes into one of a mortal's to live a lifetime in the human world."

Xing Zhi's footsteps didn't falter as he continued to walk casually, "Maybe." Noticing how Chen Li didn't keep up, he turned to look at her, "What?"

Chen Li stared at him in the eye, before suddenly breaking out into a smile. "Nothing, it's just that God... Reminds me of an old friend."

"Oh?" Xing Zhi continued to walk leisurely, "It's pretty rare for someone to resemble me."

“Yeah.”

It was silent in the darkness for a long time. A white figure continued to walk, as if he'd never stopped. “Azure Sky King.” Xing Zhi suddenly spoke, “It's not always a good thing for people to be too persistent.”

Chen Li's eyes lowered, “Chen Li thanks Sir God for the advice.”

Chen Li fell behind as she walked behind Xing Zhi's back, but then she suddenly realised that this wasn't good either! In the darkness, nothing could distract her from Xing Zhi. Whether it was the white robes drifting elegantly in the breeze, or hair flowing in an arc, they were all that she could see.

“I heard King tried to flee the marriage before.” Xing Zhi suddenly opened his mouth to ask, “Might King inform me why you opposed the marriage?”

Mentioning this topic, Chen Li immediately frowned. Her voice was cold as she snorted, “With him plucking an apricot tree til bare, dare I ask if Sir God would fancy him too? Moreover, as the Cetestial Emperor's 33rd grandson, he is a man who has lived for more than 1000 years. Yet despite living for so long, he has not one contribution to the military, nor participated in politics, instead choosing to focus on learning how to defile a maiden and her talents! If he was the son of Chen Li, he definitely would've been chopped in fear of bringing harm to the Demonic Realm!”

TL Note: The Apricot Tree idiom means that he got laid a lot.

Listening to her righteous words spoken so passionately, Xing Zhi couldn't help but cover his mouth and smile, "Gentleman Fu Rong isn't so unbearable, he isn't only good at defiling maidens....." His words only fueled Chen Li's anger even more, not waiting for him to finish before she interrupted him, "Whatever guy he is, I haven't even met him, nevermind marry him! If it wasn't for Sir God's moment of confusion to try and tie a pair of mismatched mandarin ducks together, this King never would've fallen to this point! This King also hasn't asked you, why you would assign such a marriage to me?!"

TL Note: Mandarin Ducks mean a pair of lovers, and well you can guess what mismatched will mean

"Because..." Xing Zhi raised his head, not sure where to look as he avoided her gaze, "I felt you two would make a good match, ah."

"Ah..... Ah... Achoo!" Inside the Temple in Heaven, Fu Rong sneezed as he laid in a large tub, flower petals scattering gently on the rippled water. By his side, the attendant quickly handed him a handkerchief, asking, "Sir Immortal, is your water cold?"

Fu Rong shook his head and waved, "Get me something to eat." The attendant complied and headed to the door when it was a wave of minions suddenly burst through from outside, practically stumbling on one another, "Lord Immortal, Lord Immortal!!"

Fu Rong quickly shouted, "Stop!! Head to toe, covered in dirt!"

You are not allowed to dirty this lord's sacred bathing area!"

# Chapter 26:

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The servant had to stand behind the screen as he reported, “Lord Immortal, my friends in the Demonic Realm had just reported that a fearsome beast from the Space-Time Rip escaped, and the Azure Sky King beheaded it! Lord Immortal may not know, but this little one heard that when the Azure Sky King got angry, she killed the beast, which was as big as a temple, with one shot, ah! Then she feasted on its flesh, raw! Eating the whole body, bathed in blood!!”

Fu Rong’s face turned pale as he hurriedly got out of the bath and clothed himself, before running barefoot to the screen. His voice trembled as he pulled at the servant’s robes, “Seriously?”

“It’s true!”

“Ge..... Get ready! You still haven’t gotten ready for this lord?! This lord must see the Emperor!”

It’s said on that very day, Fu Rong groveled in front of the Celestial Emperor in the palace hall, howling for more than half a day, “Grandson doesn’t want to die!!!” In the end, the Emperor’s attendants had to dragged Fu Rong back to his estate.

That night, Fu Rong fiercely struggled up from his bed, and set out. “This won’t do!” He had said, “I must go to the Demonic Realm to have a look with my own eyes, otherwise..... otherwise, on the day of the wedding night, I might die a violent death in the wedding chamber!”

~~~

Inside the darkness where the passage of time was unknown, with no direction, no goal in mind, and no idea how long Xing Zhi's "two laps" is, Chen Li's heart couldn't help but hold some anxiety. She's opened her mouth to ask Xing Zhi multiple times, but he simply continued to walk along leisurely. But if she were to ask too insistently, her image as the Azure Sky King would've turned into someone who could not keep her calm.....

Chen Li couldn't help but sigh again. She felt, in Xing Zhi's presence, she was always presented with a dilemma. The hard approach wouldn't work, and the soft..... she cannot.....

Suddenly, a blast sounded by her ear as they were engulfed by a powerful murderous intent. Chen Li's face turned serious. "There are beasts."

Xing Zhi lightly smiled, "They've finally gone impatient, coming here to court death."

Hearing those words, Chen Li was startled, but didn't get a chance to think deeply before another hoarse cry rang out, echoing in her eardrums. Subconsciously, she summoned her Hongyin spear and moved forward, when Xing Zhi suddenly waved his sleeve in front of her, stopping Chen Li. He turned around and asked her, "Do you want to see what the Space-Time Rip looks like?"

Chen Li was dumbfounded. Heaven's Space-Time Rip..... it was

impossible for anyone to see the Space-Time Rip looked like..... Her thoughts still hadn't settled when she suddenly saw a flash of light coming from Xing Zhi's palm, the ball heading directly to the source of the noise. A loud "Gong!" could be heard as it hit, white light bursting open, piercing through the darkness, letting Chen Li see not only the beast that it hit, but also the unending number of icy cold eyes around them!

The demonic beasts, crouched in all directions, staring at them frostily. Some peeled back their lips, reflecting the cold light off of their sharp fangs. Others had long tongues as they hid behind the rest, their eyes dark and cruel. They made not one sound, resembling prey about to be killed by its hunter, completely tense.

Even Chen Li, seeing this scene, the tiny hairs on her body couldn't help but stand up as she stared, astonished. She couldn't calm down until the light had faded, restoring the world to its previous darkness. Chen Li asked "While we were walking, did you already know of that the beasts were watching us?"

"Naturally."

His tone was completely indifferent. Chen Li's heart fell silent. For her, killing a single Scorpion Tailed Fox had taken so much effort. Yet for him, he easily dispatched a beast while chatting, all while just casually taking a walk freely here. Even disregarding the power he held as a god, this guy..... Is indeed a piece of work.

"Azure Sky King." Xing Zhi suddenly turned around to face her, "Don't you feel like the air here's rather eerie?"

“No.....?”

“Anyways,” Xing Zhi’s face turned serious, “After I treat you and we exit, don’t let another person ever approach the Space-Time Rip again.

Chen Li was startled. Suddenly, Xing Zhi gripped her hand as warm energy flowed from his palm into hers. She could feel something in her body whisk outside just as black miasma spilled out of Xing Zhi’s bloodstained arm. A moment after, Xing Zhi commanded, “Hold your breath.”

Without hesitation, Chen Li held her breath. The reason unknown, the beasts suddenly seemed to rush towards them, their shrieks deafening. She felt light headed as the harsh screams were all left behind. When Chen Li recovered, she looked up to see Xing Zhi in front of her, the moonlight reflecting off the side of his face, outlining it with an ethereal glow. He was panting, 2 drops of sweat slowly trailing down the side of his face.

Chen Li asked blankly, “Did you not say..... 2 laps?”

“Ah,” Xing Zhi rubbed his forehead, “How clever, you knew that we hadn’t finished our stroll yet.”

“Did you lie to me again?”

“No, not being able to expel the miasma wasn’t the truth. But in

that kind of situation, I felt it'd be rather dangerous for me to do so. Therefore, I chose to stretch my arms and legs a bit with a technique.” His breathing was rough, “Only this technique is somewhat soul-searing. Just let me rest a little.....”

He let go of Chen Li’s hand and stumbled back, clutching his forehead. Chen Li looked at him, startled. Her wrist felt cold as the wind blew; remnants of sweat from Xing Zhi’s palm were left on her wrist.

Chen Li suddenly realised, these past few days, he had been remoulding the seal, despite being injured by the demonic beasts, even for an Ancient God, it was too much. Moreover, the lingering miasma left on his wound couldn’t have been simple, the reason why he didn’t drive out the miasma earlier. But he could feel the killing intent from the beasts, so he was forced to expel it without preparation, and had no choice but to escape with her from the Space-Time Rip.

Chen Li’s other hand covered the place where Xing Zhi had held. So even the legendary Ancient God is able to be injured and feel pain. It turns out..... God Xing Zhi also loves to act brave and show off, ah.

Chen Li and Xing Zhi slowly walked back to the field camp. Many of the tents had been dismantled and packed away as a watchman looked around, holding a torch. The watchman looked at them with surprise, “You are..... Sir God and King.....”

“Something came up, “ Chen Li raised her voice, “Where’s General Shang Bei?”

Hearing her displeasure, the watchmen hurriedly replied, “King, you’ve disappeared for 5 days, la! General Shang Bei had thought you’ve ran away again. He made all the soldiers search for you, and when you couldn’t be found, he had hurried back to inform the Demon Emperor of your whereabouts.”

Chen Li sighed, sure enough.....

Xing Zhi interrupted, “When did they leave?”

“They left yesterday.”

Xing Zhi pondered for a moment, “An army travels slowly, and many are even wounded so they can’t walk as fast. Perhaps we can reach the capital before they do.”

Chen Li decided, saying, “We’ll return now.” Just as her voice fell, she turned to look at Xing Zhi who smiled in return, “King doesn’t need to worry. Xing Zhi hasn’t become useless just yet.” Chen Li nodded and didn’t reply as she quickly harnessed the clouds. Xing Zhi also harnessed a cloud and followed her.

Below them, the watchman stared as their backs faded into the distance and asked a nearby soldier, “Hm..... is it just me being overly sensitive, or is there something there?”

Soldier: “Watchman, I am also overly sensitive.....”

~~~

Xing Zhi and Chen Li's speed was many times faster than the army so by the time they reached the capital, the soldiers still hadn't returned. The whole city was decorated by rarely seen streamers and colorful banners, as the capital's prideful flag blew with the wind. Chen Li watched as the flag danced in the air, happy as she said, "Each and every battle we fight, the most beloved moment of victory is when we return, and see the smiling faces of the people as they raise the flag high into the cloud with pride. Only then do I truly feel that the things I do, are meaningful."

Xing Zhi was slightly startled and looked at Chen Li, a hint of a smile growing on his face. He couldn't help but grin as he said, "En, King has ambition."

Spotting her mansion, Chen Li said, "I'm dirty right now, so seeing the Emperor like this would be too rude. I'll go home first to wash up, can God go see the Demon Emperor first?"

"I....." He had just spoken when they suddenly heard a woman scream from below them, "King! King! You've come back!!!!"

Chen Li frowned and looked down only to see Rou Ya carrying a bucket, crying as she ran over to her from the guest room before falling onto the ground, sobbing. Chen Li quickly released the cloud as she hurried toward Rou Ya, "What could've scared you so much?". Rou Ya raised her head to see Chen Li. A round pair of eyes stared at her blankly, as if she couldn't believe what she was seeing. Chen Li frowned, "What happened?"

Rou Ya threw the bucket to the side and tightly grabbed onto Chen Li's waist, crying, "Wu, wu! King! There's a beast! Always bullying Rou Ya!"

Hearing the word "Beast", Chen Li's heart immediately tensed up, but had no time to ask anything when a loud "Bang!" suddenly sounded. The door was slammed open. His whole body was colored red, only a small towel wrapped around his crotch as the man roared in anger, "Dead girl! You dared to let the water scald this Lord?! See if this Lord doesn't flay off a layer of your skin!"

His voice had just fallen when a cool breeze blew, dispersing the mist in front of the man, letting him see the figures of a man and woman in the front yard, somewhat startling him. Chen Li glanced over his red, hot body before narrowing her eyes: "Who are you?"

The man was silent, only Rou Ya still sobbed as she clutched onto Chen Li, "King, King....."

Knowing the woman's identity, the man's face changed from red, to blue, then green. In the nick of time, a white robe was slipped onto him, covering his body by Xing Zhi, who smiled faintly, "Gentleman Fu Rong, those in Heaven must've never taught you, that you must wear clothes before you go out." Looking at the smile on Xing Zhi's face, Fu Rong couldn't help but secretly tremble. He hurriedly ran back into the room, closing the door quickly behind him.

It was quiet once again. Chen Li stiffly turned to look at Xing Zhi,

“He? Gentleman Fu Rong? Heaven’s grandson?”

Seeing Xing Zhi’s eyes lower as he gently nodded, Chen Li’s mouth twitched. After a moment of silence, she picked up Rou Ya’s skirt, her voice ice cold: “Why did you let that thing inside this King’s palace?”

Rou Ya was in tears, “Rou Ya didn’t want to, ah! This is the Demon Emperor’s order! Rou Ya can’t refuse, wah.....”

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Chen Li let go of Rou Ya and rubbed her forehead, listening to her cry, “King claimed that King was going into retreat, but King obviously wanted to run away. When the Demon Emperor’s people came, they caught Xuxu in King’s human form and changed him back into a bird. They took Xuxu away, and he never came back, wah..... Rou Ya’s sad. Later Rou Ya heard that Fu Rong came to the Demon Emperor, and so the Demon Emperor chose to let him live here for a while. He had Rou Ya serve him, but he was so hard to wait, ah! A picky eater, angered the cook, loves to throw things, Zhang Sao even quit. Uwuuu even in a shower, he complained that it was too hot, too cold, always whining, such a troublesome man, King, you should just kill him, okay!”

“Unbridled!” The door opened again as Fu Rong shouted angrily, “What slave dares to speak like that!”

Chen Li stood in front of Rou Ya, her back protecting her as her

cold eyes stared at Fu Rong. “My girl dares to speak like this, if you are dissatisfied, speak. Chen Li is listening.”

When Fu Rong remembered the Demonic Realm’s rumors about her, he swallowed his saliva and averted his eyes, “I didn’t..... say anything.”

“Gentleman Fu Rong, Chen Li had previously gone to the mortal world and unknowingly offended you. But Chen Li wishes to ask you, Gentleman Fu Rong is the Celestial Emperor’s beloved son, so why would you come down to my Demon Realm?” Her words were cold, blantly revealing the contempt in her heart. “Could it be that a few days ago, you’ve heard Chen Li failed to escape the marriage and now you can’t bear to not see?”

# Chapter 27:

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Fu Rong silently stepped back, as if he had ran into an aura of death. This guy..... his forehead was covered in cold sweat. He really couldn't marry such a person, ah!

If it were said that Fu Rong had any inkling of hopes and wishful thinking towards Shen Li before, they were completely shattered. He cleared his throat, trying to get control of the situation. “Ben, Benjun only heard that the demonic beasts in the Demonic Realm’s Space Time Rip ruins escaped and that the miasma had spread everywhere. So, Benjun has decided to help the demonic realm’s people in purifying the miasma. How could Benjun think like that....” He paused before mildly finishing, “You’re welcome!”

Shen Li narrowed her eyes before examining him up and down. A effeminate air, gaudy clothes, with his hair tied up in a blindingly flashy gold dragon jade coil. She smiled coldly, “Lord Immortal is joking.”

Apart from when his Imperial Grandfather was angry with him, in all 99 levels of Heaven, no immortal had ever dared to look at him like that. He shouted furiously, “What’s your problem! Do you look down on me that much! Other immortals wouldn’t dare to say, but apart from Deity Xing Zhi, nobody else in Heaven has the ability to purify the miasma.....”

“Don’t be noisy.” Xing Zhi suddenly spoke. He glanced at Fu Rong coldly, “Lord Immortal, does the Celestial Emperor know about the trip you made to the Demonic Realm this time?”

Fu Rong looked at Xing Zhi before awkwardly scratching his head. Although this deity's face was always cold, he could sometimes show a gentle smile. But when he spoke to him, Fu Rong's body still couldn't help but unconsciously tense up as he obediently replied, "Naturally I told Imperial Grandfather this time. Imperial Grandfather let me stay here for a few days to help the Demonic Realm's common people."

That was just a pretext, his Imperial Grandfather really just wanted for him and Shen Li to grow feelings for each other! But since these people didn't know about that, there was no need for him to say that.

Shen Li rubbed her forehead as she grudgingly accepted the fact that she would have to share the house with the stupid Gentleman Fu Rong. Suddenly, Xing Zhi spoke up behind her, "That's right. Today's still early and Gentleman Fu Rong just took a bath to purify the body so your whole body is clear and bright. It'll definitely help to improve the common people's situation." He pointed at the courtyard's door, "Lord Immortal should quickly go out now, right?"

"Yi!" Fu Rong was startled. Shen Li also looked at Xing Zhi, surprised. She knew perfectly well that helping the people was only an excuse. Lord Deity, this..... Shen Li realised, this was just bullying Fu Rong, ah.

"On the way here, I saw that the miasma south east of the Capital was especially strong. There's no harm for Gentleman Fu Rong to take a look." He pointed. Fu Rong felt that it was truly difficult to get off the tiger after riding it (impossible to stop halfway) and

nodded, "Alright, Lord Deity....."

After Fu Rong left, Shen Li couldn't help but ask, "Did he offend you?"

"Why would Wangye say such a thing?"

"No..... I was just thinking Lord Deity looked like you were bullying him."

Xing Zhi smiled and didn't speak. Shen Li also didn't ask anymore, letting Rou Ya prepare some hot water to take a bath.

Alone in the courtyard, Xing Zhi kneaded the space between his eyebrows as he talked to himself: "I just..... can't help but feel annoyed at the sight of him." He sighed, lowering his head as he smiled, "Really, what's wrong with me."

Shen Li cleaned herself and calmly entered the Demon Palace with Xing Zhi. General Shang Bei had conveniently ran to report back to the Demon Emperor as fast as he could. After reading over Shang Bei's report, the Demon Emperor's face was still green and red when he suddenly heard the attendant announce outside the door, "Emperor, Wangye and Deity Xing Zhi have come."

The Demon Emperor was startled and rolled up the report. He stayed silent before finally speaking. "Let them in."

The door was pushed open and the Demon Emperor got up to

welcome them, “Deity Xing Zhi, we are honored by your presence. Please excuse our demon race for not going out to receive you, we hope you can forgive us.”

“Demon Emperor is too polite.” Xing Zhi smiled, “Coming here this time was just to remodel the Space Time Rip’s seal, and didn’t mean to disturb you all. It’s just that the Azure Sky King needed a witness, so.....” He then looked at Shen Li, who immediately bowed, “Demon Emperor, this time, Shen Li really wasn’t trying to flee from the marriage! I only went to the boundary to kill the demonic beast. I had originally planned to return with General Shang Bei, but..... I ran into an accident.”

The Demon Emperor looked at Shen Li, “Since the person’s already come back, it no longer needs to be discussed. I’ve already heard Mo Fang’s words. This time, you have done a great merit, making up for earlier mistakes. I won’t investigate and go against our ‘Wang’ (king) title.”

Shen Li was delighted. Although she had always been bold, she always somewhat revered the Demon Emperor and so she had always felt bad over fleeing the marriage. The feeling was like a child caught stealing from the candy jar.

Xing Zhi looked at her, his gaze unable to help but turn soft.

The Demon Emperor looked at the two calmly and opened his mouth, “Deity has come from afar. It’d be better to rest in the Demon Realm for a few days and let us Demons show our sincerity and thanks.”

"Then I'll be troubling you all for the next few days."

The Demon Emperor nodded, raising his voice to call for an attendant to arrange a residence for Deity Xing Zhi. He was just about to speak when Xing Zhi suddenly cut in, "In the Demon Realm, I currently only know the little Wangye. It's better for me to just stay with Wangye, then she can also guide me around the Demon Realm."

Shen Li was startled, "If the Demon Emperor is fine with it, I'm fine...."

Behind the silver mask, the Demon Emperor stared at Xing Zhi for a long time before finally speaking, "Then lets do it like that. I would like to chat with Li'er about family matters, may Deity please wait in the lobby." Xing Zhi nodded and the attendant led him away. When they could no longer hear his footsteps, the Demon Emperor asked Shen Li, "Injured?"

"Not very badly."

"Fu Rong is also here. With two extra people in your home, do you need another servant?"

"Probably not. Oh right, Demon Emperor, is it possible to have my parrot back?"

"Take it back, it's loud enough to annoy a person to death."



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